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VIDELA ADDRESSES NATION ON REORGANIZATION, BEAGLE, PARANA

PY240109Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text of President Jorge Rafael Videla's speech to the nation on 23 November in Buenos Aires--presumably recorded]

[Text] To the Argentine nation: It is my duty to address my fellow countrymen to comment on some ideas, some meditations on subjects which today justifiably worry all Argentines. Various subjects regarding our international relations and domestic politics as well have demanded special attention in recent times.

From the very first, I have wanted Argentine foreign policy not to be the exclusive expression of the president of the nation but also, and especially, the thought and the desire of the armed forces and of all the people. It has been necessary that our foreign policy show a unity of goals and action, an indispensable condition for the full implementation of it.

Argentina has invariably settled its border conflicts through peaceful means; it has fulfilled its commitments and has accepted decisions which have often been adverse. Nevertheless, on 25 January 1978, the national government was forced to declare void the arbitration which intended to put an end to the current conflict with Chile over the Beagle Channel. That arbitration contained many serious defects which disqualified it as a judicial act, such as an excess of power and open violations of essential legal rules. Therefore, the position assumed is entirely justified and, in addition, is supported by numerous international proceedings.

The national government has made every possible effort and has placed all its sincerity in an attempt to find an equitable bilateral solution to the pending jurisdictional problems with Chile. In this regard, it has given unequivocal signs of its good will and of its constant desire for negotiation.

With this spirit, I went to meet President Pinochet in Mendoza. On that occasion, we set the basis which would allow us to seek the means for an honorable and permanent solution. That basis has been reconfirmed by the Puerto Montt Treaty, which established a system of negotiations in three stages to seek a final and integral solution to the pending problems between the two countries.

We are now in the third stage and, taking into account the results achieved so far, the Argentine Government has invited the Chilean Government to prepare the international instruments which may include the agreements achieved. We have also expressed our agreement with Chile in employing the aid of a friendly government, designated by common agreement, in order to overcome any disagreements which may persist.

The Chilean Government recently responded to the Argentine proposal, and, in due time, after a thorough study, we will release our position in this regard.

Throughout this long process, the republic has given tangible evidence of its peaceful intention. But just as we have not lacked prudence in seeking an equitable solution, we will not hesitate, if the situation warrants, to make the necessary decision affirming our sovereignty.

The serene steadfastness of our armed forces and the courage of our people, who have given tremendous examples of courage, have assured us that the national dignity will be preserved.

I also want to discuss another issue which is of special interest to the public: The negotiations aimed at reconciling the hydroelectric projects of Corpus and Itaipu and the possible effects of these projects downstream.

Remarkable progress has been made in our negotiations with Brazil and Paraguay during the past 2 years. These negotiations are now at a point at which it has become necessary to make both a final reflection and a final effort. Argentina has maintained a coherent, rational attitude which will continue to guide its positions in defense of our national interests. In the final analysis, our position is simple: It is necessary to adequately reconcile the interests of the three countries.

From the technical viewpoint, it has been adequately demonstrated that the hydroelectric projects undertaken by Argentina and Brazil and Paraguay are not incompatible, but instead, complementary. Our main concern continues to be, and will always be, guaranteeing the river's water quality and suitable navigation conditions. Since the Parana River is of vital significance for Argentina, we can in no way risk its fate. We believe that our concern has been well understood by the upstream countries. Now that we are almost at the end of a long series of talks in which adequate information has been exchanged, no new factor of analysis which may damage the foundation of agreement achieved thus far should be introduced.

It must be taken into account that the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric projects will function in border areas. Therefore, it is essential to include an important political element among the guidelines established to achieve a solution. This element could be defined as the great significance which an Argentine-Brazilian-Paraguayan border marked by cooperation and not by disagreements would have for the future of South America. In keeping with this purpose, Argentina has tenaciously persisted in its attitude of seeking rational solutions.

But we Argentines must consider that although it is important for us to reach an agreement with Brazil and Paraguay, it is even more important for us to have an expanding economy, which would make the Parana projects not only an unrenounceable goal but also a gratifying need.

In the area of national politics, moved by the same spirit of seeking the most appropriate solutions, I deem it important to express some ideas regarding the march of the national reorganization process. Our government began under dramatic circumstances considering the chaos and subversion the armed forces had to cope with. Today we can state that we have overcome disorder and that we have practically defeated terrorism, which has been reduced to minor activities. Therefore, we must reflect on the painful experience we have endured. Since this process is based on that experience, it requires the full participation of all national sectors.

I have time and again stated that we must overcome once and for all the periodic succession of civilian and military governments, which have rotated in power without achieving an established, stable political regime. To put a halt to the recurring crises which have taken place during the past 50 years, we must set up a valid, political alternative which, overcoming disagreements, may help us achieve a durable, democratic solution. Therefore, we announced to the country that in due time, the armed forces would formulate a political proposal--a proposal which would not be detrimental to any social or political sector; a generous proposal which may reach every sector and trend willing to participate in a pluralist, stable democracy within the framework of a modern Argentina; a proposal which would reveal the Argentines' ability to build national unity; a proposal to be completed soon based on two fundamental elements: dialog to enrich it, and participation to make it real.

These elements will lead us to a convergence of civilians and military around the proposal.

In recent times, we have been accused of having political intentions, which would in practice imply our rejection of what we have maintained with decisive conviction since 24 March 1976. Let it be known to those who charged us with such purposes that we have not dropped any of our banners because they reflect the feelings of the Argentine people and of their armed forces, and are also in keeping with my most profound beliefs.

Have no doubts: There will be dialog because it is the only way possible to reconcile the aspirations of those who have historically disagreed. Dialog is the channel for overcoming the incongruities of the past which are today superficial antagonism.

There will also be participation. We know that without an active and increasing participation it will not be possible to preserve and expand the support we have won because the building of the modern Argentina we desire will emerge from the result of shared effort.

We are fully aware that there are those who, assuming an elitist position, ignoring the reality which surrounds us and rejecting the most tragic world experiences, oppose the implementation of these ideas. We remind these people that both dialog and participation, which are nurtured by the Christian concept of life, are conditions for peace.

We also know that there are other sectors which, forgetting our political past and the unprecedented process for national reorganization, are betting on an electoral outlet which, lacking the solid support of civilian-military agreement, can only lead us to another and unforgivable historical frustration.

Nor will the opportunists, who seek to profit from the difficulties endured by the Argentine people, force us to divert from the lofty objectives which encourage us. Their intentions, at this decisive time, point toward disorienting the armed forces, trying to engage them in demagogic or populist positions.

Any of these people must know that in politics, the shortest distance between two points is not always a straight line. A process such as we are experiencing must unavoidably go through valleys and mountains, mesas and passes. But this path, this long path, with disappointments and satisfactions, with errors and successes, only finds its justification and vital force in achieving the great objective: the winning of peace, a peace which is worth having.

This peace will be the result of small and large efforts for convincing, for discovering and for building the new things which the country needs; efforts for strengthening social consensus behind the great national objectives. In achieving this peace, both the government and the armed forces and the various sectors have an unavoidable responsiblity.

This is why I must make a call for overcoming simplistic attitudes and specially warn that measures of force such as those which have been adopted during these days affect the welfare of the community. They imply a challenge to the peace which this government ardently wishes to consolidate and they can attack nation security at this particular time.

Gentlemen: Tonight the president also wishes to convey to you some personal reflections. I was not ambitious for power, although through a resolution of the armed forces I exercise it with the firmness and decisiveness which circumstances demand.

I am not disposed toward making my government an autocracy because this would mean betraying my convictions, defrauding the mandate given me by my comrades-in-arms and underestimating the people of my fatherland, because they do not tolerate messianic or providential nonsense in their leaders. It is my ambition to share power with the armed forces, with representative personalities from the various sectors and trends which comprise our society and with the Argentine people who are the final recipients of this process.

In view of all of this, my major desire as president and as a man under arms is that of molding national unity during these difficult times which the republic is experiencing--unity in the basic principles; unity in the defense of our sovereignty; unity in diversity; unity. For its achievement, I renew my call to all the Argentine people.

AMBASSADOR TO CHILE RETURNS TO SANTIAGO

PY232224Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2210 GMT 23 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Nov (NA)--The Argentine ambassador to Chile, Gen Mario Hugo Miatello, left for Santiago aboard a Chilean airline at 1900. Miatello had been in Buenos Aires since last Thursday when he was called by the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Minutes before boarding the airplane, he answered a question as to whether or not he was carrying a response by the Argentine Government to the last two Chilean notes. General Miatello said he was not carrying "anything special."

I CORPS COMMANDER COMMENTS ON BEAGLE DISPUTE

PY230018Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Nov 78 p 2 PY

[Text] After categorically asserting that the South Atlantic "belongs to Argentina, that it is unrenounceble and cannot be shared with anyone." Gen Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason, commander of the I Corps, stated: "Our sovereignty is not to be discussed, and I want this fact to be clearly set forth so that everyone will understand its importance."

General Suarez Mason made this statement to the newspaper PREGON in the Buenos Aires suburb of Azul, where he attended maneuvers by troops of the local garrison which took place at the zone of the Azopardo naval arsenal, with the support of two air force planes.

Asked about negotiations with Chile on the border conflict, he said that "there were no considerable changes" before the latest meeting with the Argentine ambassador to Santiago, Chile, although he did not discard the possibility of future changes.

He said that, in his judgment, Chile now has the word, and then expressed his hope that prudence and good judgment will prevail and that it may be understood that the South Atlantic belongs to Argentina, without any partner.

The I Corps commander rejected the possibility of hasty decisions being made in the conflict with Chile. "There is a political approach to it, supported by the president, in which there has been a decision to not rule out any possibility of negotiation," he said. Suarez Mason said he agrees with that idea because "no one hates war more than a soldier. We know how it is." He said that the Chilean Army has the same idea, and he admitted that achieving a peaceful solution requires much work.

He also said he "serenely" awaits the course of events, and indicated that there is the possibility of beginning a new stage in the negotiations. "I simply await serenely, with everything in place and with the usual courage to take action when ordered, anywhere, without delay, as I have always done," he said.

Regarding the third stage of negotiations, Suarez Mason indicated that it is scheduled to "be the last one," and that stage will be over at the moment that a decision is not reached at a high-level meeting." After recalling that the third stage is still under negotiation, General Suarez Mason warned that the problem with Chile "cannot be delayed for many months; for the sake of citing a figure, I feel it will have a shorter existence."

Regarding the essence of the conflict itself, the I Corps commander stated that it is not a question of a few islands, but access to the South Atlantic and the related maritime territory, which is of tremendous importance, in addition to the projection in the Atlantic. He added: "I do not want the men who may comment on this a century from now to refer to us as though we were not aware that the South Atlantic has unimaginable wealth, that it is worth reaffirming Argentine sovereignty, especially with the presence of Argentina in the Antarctic."

FOREIGN MINISTER ON BEAGLE CHANNEL, UPCOMING URUGUAY TRIP

PY221640Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1342 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Nov (NA)--Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor today denied that Hugo Miatello, the Argentine ambassador in Santiago, will be recalled. He also refrained from commenting on the border dispute with Chile because "it is not advisable to talk about these issues, which we are not carefully studying, at such a delicate moment." He also stated that "we all want a happy ending."

The foreign minister made these remarks this morning at the Buenos Aires metropolitan airport just before leaving for Paysandu, Uruguay, where he will meet with his Uruguayan colleague, Adolfo Folle-Martinez. The two will officially inaugurate the headquarters of the Uruguay River Administrating Commission.

When asked if he could provide some information about the Military Committee's decisions regarding the dispute with Chile, which were touched upon only by a very brief official communique, Pastor said: "It would not be prudent to make any statement at such a delicate moment." "However," he added, "we could emphasize that what we are going to do in Uruguay is precisely what good neighbors do, and that is to achieve better understanding."

In answer to a question, Pastor then denied that Hugo Miatello, Argentina's ambassador in Santiago, will be recalled. The foreign minister said: "That is absolutely incorrect. It is a misinterpretation." He then insisted: "Anyway, as I have already said, it would not be prudent to talk about these issues, which we are now carefully studying, at such a delicate moment."

Ambassador Miatello has been in Buenos Aires since last Friday, when he was called by the government to report on his mission in Chile and to receive instructions for future actions.

Finally, Pastor was asked if he was optimistic about a favorable solution to the problem. Pastor answered that "we all want a happy ending, of course."

Regarding his meeting with Folle-Martinez, Pastor stated that "it is a step in terminating the negotiations which concluded some time ago very successfully, and we are going to ratify them." The foreign minister was referring to the inauguration of the Uruguay River Administrating Commission.

However, the two ministers will also discuss a series of issues of mutual interest and they will sign a joint communique summarizing all the different points discussed. The talks will center on bilateral trade and relations and issues concerning the upcoming meeting of River Plate basin foreign ministers, which will start on 4 December in Punta del Este.

NEW MEETING WITH UK PLANNED ON MALVINAS

PY232253Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor and his British counterpart David Owen will soon release a communique to indicate the place and date for a new meeting on the Malvinas Islands.

This report was released yesterday by an authorized spokesman of the San Martin Palace on being asked about news media reports that the new meeting will be held on 20 December.

While former Foreign Minister Montes was in New York to attend the UN General Assembly, both foreign ministers had agreed that the next meeting would be held in December 1978, while the date and place would be established later.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES NOTE EXPLAINING MALVINAS RESEARCH

PY232335Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (TELAM)--The Foreign Ministry indicated yesterday that the seismic research being carried out by some U.S. companies [the Geophysical Services Inc and Western Geophysical] on the Argentine continental shelf, including the Malvinas continental shelf, has its origin in an agreement signed in 1977 between those companies and the national government.

The Foreign Ministry added that our country, through the Energy Secretariat, promotes these studies to acquire further knowledge on the geological composition of these continental shelves.

On 31 August 1978, Argentina presented a note to the United Nations explaining several paragraphs of the text referring to the Malvinas Island, stating that it would be appropriate to point out that this seismic research is being carried out by virtue of contracts signed between those companies and the national government.

The Argentine note adds: It is true that several petroleum companies, including British Petroleum, sponsor this research, but this work is not carried out in the name of the companies but by virtue of the contracts we mentioned before, of course with the supposition that the Argentine Government is fully informed of the results.

The Foreign Ministry note concludes that within this context, the report released by the United Kingdom delegation to the United Nations which the local press referred to today certainly aims at expanding, from the British point of view, the same information of the UN Secretariat which had motivated the note released by the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

PRESIDENT PEREDA DEPOSED IN PRE-DAWN MILITARY COUP

TA241200Y Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 24 Nov 78 TA

[By Eduardo Perez]

[Text] La Paz, Nov. 24 (AFP)--Bolivian General David Padilla, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, carried out a pre-dawn coup against President Juan Pereda today but it was not clear whether General Pereda had been captured and if the coup had succeeded.

The coup started at 3:40 A.M. (local time) when a lone high-ranking army officer took over the presidential palace. He appeared outside the main entrance and shouted, "open the door, open the door." The palace guards recognized his voice and opened the door. Once inside, he gave the order, "let nobody come in here, I repeat nobody, except the army commander in chief." This scene was witnessed by [the] correspondent of AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

President Pereda's whereabouts was unknown. Some Bolivian journalists believed he had flown to Santa Cruz de la Sierra in the Amazon Jungle 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) east of this capital--the headquarters of the Second Army Corps.

General Padilla issued a statement that General Pereda had been deposed "to avoid a national confrontation," that a general election would be scheduled "immediately" and that the next "constitutional president" will be inaugurated on August 6 next year.

The coup, the second in four months, came ten hours before a big anti-government demonstration was to be held by the center-right Democratic and Popular Unity Front (FUDP) headed by former President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

President Pereda had promised a general election on May 6, 1980, but opposition leaders have been demanding an election next year.

General Padilla's statement said the armed forces wanted to avoid any confrontation with people's forces and could not "remain indifferent over the critical situation of the country," split over the date of the election.

General Pereda, 47, the air force commander, last July won in Bolivia's first national election in 12 years, but the election results were invalidated after the opposition claimed there was extensive vote rigging. Then a military triumvirate with air force backing mounted a coup on July 21 in Santa Cruz that forced Gen Hugo Banzer to relinquish the presidency to General Pereda.

The capital remained quiet today shortly after the coup. A government spokesman appointed two days ago, Mario Vargas, said cabinet ministers had been summoned to general staff headquarters. The headquarters did not seem to be guarded.

Soldiers have seized the Interior Ministry and were holding the minister prisoner, it was reported by Interior Under Secretary Walter Rios.

Communique Announces Government Takeover

PY241133Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1050 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] The following report comes to us from government house. The country has had a new government for about 4 and 1/2 hours.

At approximately 0230 this morning, the former president of the nation, Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, left the country, presumably aboard a military plane, for an unknown destination. From that moment on, the nation's leadership has been assumed by Brig Gen David Padilla Arancibia, who until yesterday was the commander in chief of the army. The nation's armed forces issued the following communique approximately 1 hour ago:

Bolivians: The generals, chiefs, officers, noncommissioned officers and ranks of the nation's armed forces, in line with their historic duty, cannot remain indifferent in view of the present critical situation in the country. We are aware that this situation could cause a possible confrontation with the people. In view of this, we have decided to take over the nation's government in order to return to the people their rights, freedom, and to allow them to choose their leaders through universal and democratic suffrage.

Our first step will be to issue a decree calling for general elections and to guarantee that on 6 August 1979, the leadership of the nation will be handed over to a president elected constitutionally by the people. We are taking over the leadership of the government temporarily, with the spirit of building the Bolivia which has been dreamed by generations of Bolivians, and for which the Padillas, Lenares, Busches and Villaroels have given up their lives in the past.

Our patriotic conviction is that political parties will be able to show the people their political maturity and moral quality in a general election supported by the armed forces. Through these elections, we believe they will be able to form a government which will be in accordance with the hopes of the Bolivian people.

The comrades in the armed forces and the army general command intend to fulfill their duties to the people with loyalty, idealism and dignity, and to maintain the institutional unity which this moment demands from each member of the armed forces in order to avoid fratricidal confrontations which could lead to suffering in the Bolivian family.

La Paz, 24 November 1978;

[Signed] Brig Gen David Padilla Arancibia, army commander general

Second Communique Urges Calm

PY241145Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1115 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Communique No 2 of the army general command, issued in La Paz on 24 November]

[Text] Bolivians: In order to protect the nation's tranquillity and security in view of the well-known events, the armed forces urges the people to remain calm. To attain this, they hereby guarantee the normal development of public and private activities.

At the same time, and in line with the provisions of the communique issued by the army general command, the political parties are requested to help the armed forces in their efforts.

La Paz, 24 November 1978;

[Signed] President of the military government junta Brig Gen David Padilla Arancibia

Events Leading to Coup

FY241408Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1205 GMT 24 Nov 78 FY

[Text] 24 Nov (AFP)--Today's coup d'etat against President Juan Pereda exploded like a silent bomb early this morning after 18 hours of successive events.

At 0600 local time [on 23 November], Hernan Siles Zuazo was informed that two bombs had exploded at the homes of his relatives located in the residential Obrajes and Calacoto suburbs of La Paz. The walls of one of the attacked houses--the damage was rather light--were painted with crude black drawings depicting a cross and two letters: E.C. (Christian Army), an ultraright organization.

At 0900, Siles Zuazo, top leader of the opposition to President Juan Pereda, reasserted that the antigovernment political rally scheduled for 24 November would be held despite government prohibition.

The events of 23 November continued developing in a tense atmosphere.

At 1000, various opposition leaders who are not part of Siles Zuazo's group indicated that the rally of this group (Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP]) was an unnecessary provocation against the government.

At 1100, various local radio stations began talking of a general atmosphere of unease after it was confirmed that a government demonstration in response to Siles Zuazo's rally would also be held on 24 November. At that same time listeners reacted with surprise to anonymous reports against Siles Zuazo's rally, while special vehicles began driving through the streets inviting the people to the rally sponsored by the opposition leader.

At 1300, a military communique stated that the armed forces would not allow any provocation aimed at disrupting public order and that the troops would guarantee the security of the population. The military communique was interpreted as a clear-cut warning for Siles Zuazo to give up his plan to hold an antigovernment rally on the afternoon of 24 November. Shortly afterwards, a military delegation headed by Army Commander in Chief Gen David Padilla visited President Pereda to request his resignation. Pereda answered: "I will not resign because I control the country and have the support of the majority of the armed forces."

At 1500, an urgent meeting of the cabinet, most of which is comprised of military officers, began at government house. News media began hearing various rumors to the effect that the government was about to decree the state of siege throughout the country and order the mobilization of troops to prevent the political rally organized by Siles Zuazo.

At 1700 local time, Pereda received a telephone call from General Padilla in the midst of the cabinet meeting, in which the latter reiterated his request for Pereda's resignation. The president answered as before: "I will not resign."

At 2100, Interior Minister Lt Col Faustino Rico Toro visited Hernan Siles Zuazo at his residence at the request of President Pereda. Siles reaffirmed that the constitution permits him to call a rally, while the interior minister suggested that it would be better to cancel the rally in order to preserve public order. Siles Zuazo reiterated that he would hold his rally but would withdraw his call for the rally if the government advanced the call for elections from 1980 to 1979. Pereda answered that he would maintain the date initially set, and Siles Zuazo ended his dialog with Minister Rico Toro.

At 0200 local time on 24 November, several men armed with submachineguns and dressed in civilian clothes left the general staff in the suburb of Miraflores in La Paz and went to the building of the daily PRESENCIA with a military communique signed by the army commander in chief, Gen David Padilla. The editors of the daily were about to leave because the day's issue had been closed. PRESENCIA executives confirmed the authenticity of the document over the telephone after calling up the general staff, where a Captain Herrera assured them that the document was authentic.

At 0320, a high-ranking army officer went into the presidential palace and ordered the military police guarding it to prohibit the entry of any person except those allowed to do so by order of Army Commander in Chief General Padilla. Soon afterward President Juan Pereda left his private residence, located 10 kms from government house, which stands on Murillo Square in downtown La Paz.

At 0430, Pereda's wife, Norma Ballivian de Pereda, said on the telephone that her husband had left his residence a few hours ago, telling her "don't worry, I have everything under control."

At 0500, the military police guarding government house left the building and took positions around it carrying shoulder weapons and remaining on an alert status. At that time no information was available about the reaction of military garrisons in other cities, especially Santa Cruz de la Sierra, where 4 months and 3 days ago, General Pereda demanded the resignation of then-President Hugo Banzer.

Pereda is a Bolivian Air Force general, while General Padilla is the commander in chief of the army.

There is still no information about the reaction of the Bolivian Air Force, the military institution which helped Pereda carry out his coup d'etat on 21 July.

This is the second time in 4 months that Bolivia has experienced a coup d'etat.

Pereda Given Guarantees

PY241302Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1251 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Some moments ago, the nation's new president, Gen David Padilla, arrived at the seat of government and during a brief encounter with the (?press) stated the following:

His government is of an institutional and military nature. With respect to Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, he indicated that Pereda is at his home and is provided with the necessary guarantees [words indistinct]. Padilla indicated that during the next few minutes he will disclose the configuration of the new government. That is all.

Armed Forces Commanders Meeting

PY241445Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1401 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] At 0940 this morning, Friday, the commander of the Bolivian Air Force, Jose Antonio Sempertegui, entered government house. It was reported that he will request guarantees. No details have yet been disclosed because, at the request of information authorities of government house, Bolivian newsmen covering activities there must remain outside their operations center.

At 0953, a meeting of the commanding officers began with the participation of the three branches of the armed forces: the navy, the air force and the army. The highest-ranking officers of the armed forces, Gen David Padilla of the army, Rear Adm Moises Vasquez of the navy and Jose Antonio Sempertegui of the air force, are studying the political situation of the nation.

At 1400 [as heard] today, we will know the complete configuration of the cabinet which will accompany General Padilla.

Admiral Rumored as Junta Member

PY241520Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1453 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] High-ranking military officers have been entering government house for the last few minutes, including the president of Lloyd Aereo Boliviano [LAB], Gen (Jaime Lido de Guzman).

It was also reported by sources linked to government house that a three-man military junta will be formed this afternoon. Rear Adm Santiago Maesse Roca [a former urban affairs and housing minister] will allegedly be one of the members of the junta. The name of the officer who will represent the air force is still not known.

Two Ministers Reportedly Named

PY241341Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1315 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Let us continue with the latest news. In order to keep our listeners informed about the latest developments, our reporters have been trying to interview authorities of the El Alto military base. Unfortunately, there is strict secrecy there. They did not want to make any statement whatsoever, saying that they are following higher orders.

However, we repeat that General Padilla, president of the military junta, during a brief meeting with the press, stated that General Pereda's complete guarantees will be enforced.

In addition, we have reports that there are now two ministers: the minister of defense, Hugo Cespedes [presumably Maj Gen Hugo Cespedes Espinoza, armed forces inspector general], and the minister of the interior, Col (Leyton Suarez).

Swearing In of Cabinet Announced

PY241438Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1320 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] (Daniel Alarcon) reports from government house:

[Begin relay] Ladies and gentlemen, may we please have your attention again to report to you that a few minutes ago Major (Aguilar Dorado) spoke to the newsmen who are gathering here at the gate of government house, since no entry is allowed, cordially asking us to wait until 1500 this afternoon for a communique and also for the swearing in of the new cabinet and president. We wish to transmit the full statement made by Major (Aguilar Dorado), who spoke in the following way to the press on behalf of the new government.

[Begin recording] ...to let you know, with the usual cordiality, in the first place, that if necessary we will publish through you any communique which will be released, but we do not expect there will be any. I repeat that this will be done if necessary. In the second place we invite you very cordially at 1500 this afternoon to enter government house in order to attend and report on the swearing in of the government.

[Question] Can you give us any advance report on the membership of the new (?cabinet)?

[Answer] At 1500 this afternoon. Because of the very special circumstances I am not authorized to advance any names.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] In fact I limit myself to making this [words indistinct] and through the presidency the communique will be released to you [words indistinct] and then invite you for 1500 for the swearing in of the government.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the situation in the interior of the country?

[Answer] There is total and absolute tranquillity. Absolute tranquillity, particularly thanks to the reports we have received from the private news media [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

This was the statement made by Maj (Victor Aguilar Dorado) on behalf of the new government at the palace gate to the several representatives of the press.

Various armed forces officers have been arriving at government house in the last few minutes. Some of them are on active service, others in retirement. We can mention some names, such as Gary Prado, (Carlos Fernandez), (Tito Vargas), Col [name indistinct], Col Mario Vargas Salinas, (Jorge Escobar Quiroga), David Padilla and others. We will continue reporting for Radio Panamericana. [end relay]

Armed Forces in 'Complete Control'

PY241334Y [Editorial Report PY] La Paz Radio Panamericana network in Spanish at 1130 GMT on 24 November 1978 dedicates its whole newscast to the military coup in La Paz this morning. Much of the material is repetitive, but it contains the following new details on the present situation:

"The Bolivian Armed Forces took complete control of the government early this morning after overthrowing Gen Juan Pereda Asbun without bloodshed....The new government, which will presumably be formed on the basis of a triumvirate, has declared itself to be transitional and announced that on 6 August 1979 power will be handed over to a government to be formed as the result of elections."

"The military coup which has ousted Juan Pereda Asbun has not yet caused any reactions from the interior of the country where there is total support for the new government, military sources said when they were asked by the local press. In Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the departmental capital located 900 km southeast of La Paz, all was completely calm, despite the fact that the large city was the rebel bastion which brought General Pereda's government to power."

"Military sources said that the former president agreed to hand over command at the demand of high-ranking military chiefs who visited him at government house shortly before dawn."

The Panamericana chief editor, (Walter Montero), then gives the general outlines of events and reports: "The armed forces are holding talks at government house under the leadership of Gen David Padilla Arancibia to form the new government. In the meantime, various political, civic and labor organizations are waiting for the details of the forming of a cabinet which will become known within the next few hours."

A direct report from government house by Panamericana reporter (Daniel Alarcon Morales) says: "We can report to the public that government house is completely controlled and protected by armed forces personnel, soldiers from the Ingavi regiment and military police personnel. The same is the case with the ministries and other state offices. This means that the armed forces are in control of all the branches of the central government." He further reports: "We can also report that Radio Panamericana was visited by (Vicente Alarcon), executive secretary of the Bolivian Peasants Grassroots Committee, who stated his support for the new armed forces government. He said that he and all his comrades in the Peasant Grassroots Committee had struggled constantly and insistently to obtain [words indistinct] effectively by the government to guarantee the new elections."

Another item in the broadcast reports: "Heavily armed troops have taken control of strategic points of La Paz City, where they caused curiosity among the first passers-by."

Another direct report from government house by (Daniel Alarcon) adds the following details: "We have been in contact with General Pereda's home, and those who are still there said that the general has not been detained and that he has not left the country, but that he has probably gone to some meeting somewhere in the city. This is all we have been able to learn from Gen Juan Pereda Asbun's home."

SILES ZUAZO ADDRESSES NATION TO RALLY SUPPORT

PY241116Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1051 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Text] [alert whistle] We interrupt this music program to bring you a last-minute report. This is a flash from Radio Panamericana.

We leaders of the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] are here in Radio Panamericana at a very special moment for our fatherland. We are led by our leader Hernan Siles Zuazo, who will address the nation at a time when democracy seems to be a certainty in the near future since the dictatorship has been overthrown. This is Comrade Hernan Siles Zuazo to all the Bolivian people:

[Siles Zuazo--live] Bolivians of the cities, mines and farmlands: The agreement between the FUDP and the armed forces who have the people's interests at heart, with regard to reestablishing the political, economic and social rights of the Bolivian people, has led today to the patriotic decision of the military institution to overthrow a government which persisted in perpetuating dictatorship without regard for popular will.

Each and every member of the FUDP and other political parties of the opposition, be they unions, university associations or civic organizations, must become guardians of democracy and the rights and freedoms of the people. Therefore, the rally called by the FUDP will be held today, Friday, 24 November at 1600 at San Francisco Square in order to reaffirm national unity expressed by the rapprochment of Bolivian majority sectors and the military institution.

This rally will ask those who have taken over the government to acknowledge all economic, social and political rights of our people, its unions, and political organizations, and especially to carry out the process of constitutionalization and democratization by calling general elections in the first half of 1979 in order to hand over power to the winner of the elections on 6 August 1979, the centennial of the loss of our outlet to the sea.

We express our firm decision to help the new process develop in accordance with our principles of peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy. We pursue no other goal than to return to the people their sovereign right to choose the government which will legitimately represent them.

The FUDP calls upon the people to firmly and calmly organize themselves to prevent this historic process from being distorted by actions contrary to the peace and unity of the Bolivian people.

We shall not allow any outbursts, proving our firm democratic support for the armed forces.

Long live the national liberating revolution!

FUDP ANNOUNCES WORK STOPPAGE IN SUPPORT OF NEW GOVERNMENT

PY241204Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1150 GMT 24 Nov 78 PY

[Excerpt] We are reporting from government house. It was reported here that the Popular Democratic Unity Front [FUDP] has called for a general work stoppage beginning at midday today, and organized a rally at the San Francisco Plaza at 1600 to show support for the principles of the new government, which has expressed its intention to call for general elections during the next semester. This is the report we obtained from (Luis Pelaez Rioja), member of the FUDP's leadership.

SAO PAULO RADIO PROVIDES LATEST ELECTION RETURNS

PY222222Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Nov 78 PY

[Excerpt] The official results for the State of Santa Catarina Senate race are as follows:

Jaison Barreto, Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB]	465,948
Vilmar Dalanhol, National Renewal Alliance [ARENA]	409,713

For the Federal Chamber, ARENA obtained 672,055 votes and the MDB, 522,075 votes; there were 152,745 blanks and 71,350 void. For the Legislative Assembly, ARENA obtained 703,798 votes and the MDB, 538,741. With this result ARENA has 23 state deputies and the MDB, 17.

In Rio de Janeiro State the results are the following:

MDB-Senate, Nelson Carneiro	2,184,900
ARENA-Sandra Cavalcanti and	1,016,228
Vasconcelos Torres	880,346
Blanks	523,635
Void	489,019

For the Federal Chamber the MDB obtained 2,602,232 votes and ARENA, 884,264. Therefore, the MDB has 36 deputies, of whom 29 won their seats outright and 6 through transfer of votes. [figures as heard]

ARENA elected only 11 federal deputies: 10 won their seats outright and 1 through transfer of votes. Miro Teixeira, Marcelo Medeiros, Erasmo Martins Pedro, Rubem Medin and Modesto da Silveira received the most votes for the MDB. For ARENA, the ones to receive the most votes were Alvaro Valle, Celio Borja, Hydekel Lima, Simao Sessin, and Darcilio Ayres. For the Legislative Assembly the MDB obtained 2,650,064 votes against 926,317 for ARENA. The MDB candidates receiving the most votes were Sandra Salim with 119,251 and Atila Nunes with 101,000. Receiving the most votes for ARENA were Wilmar Palis with 40,296, (Jorge David) with 37,723 and [name indistinct], 30,565.

The electoral court in Sao Paulo yesterday released the names of candidates elected in the 15 November election.

For the Senate, the MDB's Franco Montoro was elected with 49.66 percent of the votes. Out of the 55 seats in the Federal Chamber the MDB obtained 37 and ARENA, 18. For the Legislative Assembly, out of 79 seats, the opposition obtained two-thirds plus 1--53--and ARENA, 26. For the Federal Chamber the following were elected by ARENA: Adhemar de Barros Filho, Rafael Baldacci, Erasmo Dias, Cunha Bueno, Caio Pompeu de Toledo, (Mancel de Melo), Alcides Franciscato, Rui Silva, Jorge Maluli Neto, Gioia Junior, Francisco Rossi, Diogo Nomura Hevert Levy, Sergio Cardoso de Almeida, Salvador Julia Nelli, Silvio Fernandes Lopes, Cantidio Sampaio and Antonio Morimoto. Those elected for the MDB are: Samir Achoa, Ulysses Guimaraes, Jorge Paulo Nogueira, Alberto Goldman, Roberto Cardoso Alves, Mario Hato, Athie Jorge Cury, Natal Gale, Jose Camargo, Rafael Biazzi, Walter Garcia, Carlos Nelson Bueno, Joao Cunha, Antonio Russo, Airton Soares, Antonio Zacharias, Audalio Dantas, Otacilio Alves de Almeida, Israel Dias Novaes, Del Bosco Amaral, Horacio Ortiz, Francisco Leao, Aurelio Peres, Jose Santilli Sobrinho, Freitas Nobre, Rui Codo, Joao Paulo de Arruda Filho, Joao Pacheco e Chaves, Benedito Marcilio, Jose de Castro Coimbra, Flavio Chaves, Airton Sandoval, Antonio Tidei Lima, Jayro Maltoni, Otavio Torrecilla, Roberto de Carvalho and Adalberto Camargo.

SPANISH MONARCHS CONCLUDE VISIT; JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

Report on Joint Communique

PA221646Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2312 GMT 21 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Nov (EFE)--A joint communique signed today at the conclusion of King Juan Carlos' visit emphasizes the political desire "to consolidate relations" between Spain and Mexico, which are entering a "new era." The communique, which was read by Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel at the conclusion of the second round of talks between the Spanish king and Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo, also noted the signing of several agreements.

These agreements include an extradition and mutual assistance treaty in criminal matters, an agreement on air transportation and an industrial, energy and mining cooperation agreement. The communique emphasizes that "Mexico and Spain are in a propitious situation to consolidate a new era in their relations" and stated that both chiefs of state are pleased with the progress made in the bilateral relations "which are only 19-months-old."

In the economic field, the document describes the emphasis placed by both parties on the naval construction and transportation sectors and on the energy sector, with an "important increase in Spain's purchase of Mexican crude." They also reviewed the progress made in bilateral investments, noting the existence of broad possibilities in new fields, particularly in shipping industry, chemistry, fishing and aid for small and medium industries.

The document states that a study was made of an "important exchange program involving professionals, educational material, scholarship students and artistic exhibits." A Mexican research center will be established in Spain and a bibliographic cooperation agreement and an agreement for the recognition and validation of university degrees will be signed.

In the tourism field, there will be an exchange of experts, scholarships and tourism centers in each country. In the scientific field, bilateral cooperation agreements were signed for the use of nuclear energy, the exchange of information and experts in agriculture and livestock, communications and transportation, metropolitan administration, human settlements, public works, oceanography and telecommunications.

Finally, it was agreed that delegations from both countries will coordinate their efforts to strengthen the United Nations so that it "can effectively fulfill its purpose of maintaining international peace."

King, Queen Depart for Lima

PA221917Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1814 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 22 Nov (EFE)--King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain left for Lima today at 1005 (1605 GMT) at the end of an official visit to Mexico.

President Jose Lopez-Portillo and his wife saw them off at the airport, where the two chiefs of state embraced in farewell at the foot of the stairway of the royal plane.

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON L.A. INTEGRATION

PA221851Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0141 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Nov (LATIN)--Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja has said here that the diversity of government systems in the area prevents the Latin American community's political integration with Spain.

Oreja was interviewed at the national palace while King Juan Carlos stood on the presidential balcony and watched the sports parade commemorating the 68th anniversary of the Mexican revolution yesterday.

According to Oreja, "as an enclave factor" [as received], such an integration "is difficult, chimerical at this point due to the diversity of government systems found in the area." Nonetheless, the Spanish foreign minister indicated that the final objective is "to achieve" this integration and that the current objective is to accomplish economic integration in small areas "that are already being examined."

"Spain is observing the American hemisphere's process of integration with interest. This is the reason that King Juan Carlos is in touch with various governments," Oreja commented.

Juan Carlos, his wife Sofia and a small party of high-ranking Spanish officials, which includes the foreign minister, arrived Friday in Mexico, the first leg of their trip to this hemisphere, which will also include Peru and Argentina.

The Spanish foreign minister explained that these contacts with the area's various governments are being conducted "within a climate of respect and great interest because they may result in steps leading to the Latin American community's political integration."

He added that the political discrepancies that exist among the Latin American countries, which have a common Hispanic origin, make it more difficult for the integration process to achieve its ultimate objectives.

"An integration process is easier in Western Europe, where in spite of the natural difficulties that exist--as has been shown by the EEC's growing from six to nine member countries--there is greater similarity among the various political regimes," Oreja added.

In this respect, the foreign minister indicated that Spain's interest in belonging to the EEC "does not mean that it will set aside its plans to integrate with the American area, where this objective may be achieved even though it will be a difficult task in spite of common elements such as language, culture, origin and objectives."

Discuss International, Domestic Issues

PA221852Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0335 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Nov (AFP)--Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja today denied here that Argentina and Chile had requested his country's mediation in their conflict over the Beagle Channel.

During a news conference held at the end of the Spanish monarchs' visit to Mexico, Oreja also denied that Spain had offered itself as mediator.

The foreign minister reaffirmed that King Juan Carlos' visit to Argentina does not mean an endorsement of the current regime, but an expansion of ties with yet another people of Hispanic origin.

Oreja indicated that in his talks with Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Santiago Roel, he stated his country's position regarding the Belizean conflict: "We want a just, negotiated and peaceful solution that takes into account the historical rights of those countries which have them, but which also takes into account the Belizean people's self-determination."

Regarding the king's purpose in visiting Latin America, Oreja explained that it is "merely to try to fill the vacuum created by the lack of ties between the Spanish state and the American hemisphere."

Referring to Spain's domestic situation, he denied that the CIA's aid has been requested to fight the terrorist movements.

He also denied the rightwing groups' strength and influence in the country's political life, affairming that Francoism may still have roots in certain small sectors but that this does not endanger Spain's institutional life.

GOOD TRADE RELATIONS WITH MEXICO NOTED BY SPANISH MINISTER

PA222144Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Mexico will export to Spain from 30 to 40 million barrels of crude oil per day, which amounts to $150 million annually, Spanish Commerce and Tourism Minister Juan Antonio Garcia stated here today. Interviewed at the end of the protocol visit of diplomats to the visiting Spanish king and queen, the minister noted that trade agreements between the two countries are well underway.

He stated that Mexico is interested in installing an ammonia plant in Spain's Costa Azul. This plant would serve to supply the Mediterranean, African and north European national markets. He added that relations between Mexican Petroleum and the Spanish petrochemical industry are excellent. This will permit a plant to be set up whereby Spain will be able to obtain raw material from Mexico and produce ethylene and polyethylene.

Referring to trade relations, Garcia Diez said that trade in 1977 amounted to $100 million. He said that for the time being, they are not contemplating a triangular trade with Mexico similar to the one it has with the USSR and Venezuela. Venezuela supplies Cuba with the necessary oil and, in turn, the USSR supplies Spain.

STATE SECRETARIES, POLICE CHIEF DENY CIA STATION HERE

PA231657Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1550 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Nov (AFP)--Mexico's national defense and interior [as received] secretaries and the capital's chief of police emphatically denied today the existence of a CIA station here. The two government secretaries and the chief of police were questioned after several opposition leaders charged that "the biggest CIA station" operates in Mexico. The interior [as received] secretary denied the presence of spies in Mexico and indicated that the investigation of this issue falls under the responsibility of another state secretariat.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUA RETURNS BODIES OF CIVIL GUARDSMEN

PA222330Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2258 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] The turning over of the bodies of the two civil guardsmen killed in a clash yesterday with the national guard took place a few minutes ago. They are Lt Heriberto Sanchez Carvajal and Emanuel Alfaro Alfaro, both members of the [words indistinct]. The hostages are Gabriel Sanabria and Capt Carmelo Diaz who, according to information released by Rivas commander Gonzalo Hertz, was operated upon last night and will be returned tomorrow or the day after.

The two bodies were accompanied by platoons of the Nicaraguan National Guard which rendered military honors and presented two wreaths, one of which said Anastasio Somoza and wife. Presidency Minister Jose Ramon Cordero Croceri removed the ribbons containing the inscriptions. However, the wreaths were accepted.

OAS Autopsy Confirmation Sought

PA240319Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0230 GMT 24 Nov 78 PA

[Letter from President Rodrigo Carazo to chairman of standing OAS council; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] Pathologists of the judicial branch have determined that Lieutenant Sanchez Carvajal was beaten to death by blows with firearms by the Nicaraguan National Guard after he was wounded by two bullets. The autopsy also determined from the trajectory of the bullets which wounded the Costa Rican Civil guardsmen that the shots were fired from the upper part of a hill located on Nicaraguan soil where the Nicaraguan National Guard watches the border, the only one near the site of the incidents.

In view of all the foregoing, we request the immediate presence of OAS-appointed pathologists to conduct studies and verify what we state in this note. It will be sufficient proof of the violation of Costa Rican territory and of a new, shameful violation of elementary human right by the Somoza regime. Respectfully yours, Rodrigo Carazo, president of the republic

CARAZO SPEAKS AT FUNERAL OF SLAIN CIVIL GUARDSMEN

PA231900Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Speech by President Rodrigo Carazo during funeral services for two Civil Guardsmen slain by Nicaraguan Guardsmen, held at Metropolitan Cathedral in San Jose--live]

[Text] Comrades who are now dead, who had the virtue of being true Costa Ricans, who had the privilege of sprinkling your blood over two nations--one that seeks to live in peace and one that needs liberty--let your blood be the means to fertilize the peace and freedom of our nations.

I want to be the voice of the nation's conscience, backed by justice and truth, which cries out against assassination and which cries out against genocide. I want the lord to allow me to be the voice of the entire people who know that they raise their plea above all considerations, political and circumstantial, to pray to the supreme creator to receive them in his kingdom, because glory is breathed in his kingdom and they deserve glory.

We who now watch them leave earth wrapped in the tricolor flag, have the satisfaction of knowing that the strength of these indomitable people lies in morals; that their basic strength lies in respect for institutions. They are departing, Costa Rican peasants obliged by strange forces to take up arms. They are now leaving with the peace of our remembrance, with the peace of our prayer.

VICE PRESIDENT WARNS NICARAGUA AGAINST PROVOCATIONS

PA231200Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Costa Rican Government warned here today that if Nicaraguan provocations against Costa Rica continue, it will confront the situation with five helicopters it obtained from the U.S. Air Force.

The warning was made by Costa Rican Vice President Rodrigo Altmann, who said in regard to the tense situation with Nicaragua that, althought we are a peaceful and democratic people who do not have war materiel, we shall confront Somoza's activities with five helicopters which were [words indistinct] a social function.

He also said that some 500 Nicaraguan refugees have received all possible help from the Costa Rican Government and that they have been placed in provisional camps and are receiving proper attention.

The Costa Rican Government also denied today that it had purchased 20 bombers from Israel and explained that it had only purchased five helicopters in the United States. These aircraft were to be used for social activities.

Costa Rican Vice President Rodrigo Altmann said in a press conference that the Somoza dictatorship has continued its provocations against Costa Rica. He said that an undetermined number of Nicaraguan Air Force planes constantly fly over the Costa Rican border.

Altmann warned that the Costa Rican Government will not allow any intervention in Nicaragua from its territory, but warned that if provocations from the Somoza regime continue, they will use the five helicopters obtained from the United States to carry troops to the border region.

FOREIGN MINISTRY BULLETIN REPORTS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

PA222012Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1638 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Bulletin released on 22 November 1978 by the Foreign Ministry's information office--read by announcer]

[Text] Since yesterday, Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier has been summoning all members of the diplomatic corps for private meetings in his office to explain and discuss Costa Rica's problems with Nicaragua.

Today at the OAS council, our ambassador in Washington, Mr Jose Rafael Echeverria Villafranca, will also request that permanent civilian observers be sent in.

The Minister has also been in direct contact with the various ambassadors accredited in our country, particularly those whose countries are members of the OAS. The minister also has announced that the most severe sanctions provided in the OAS charter will be sought at that organization against the Nicaraguan Government for its actions against the Costa Rican Civil Guard yesterday at the northern border.

PENAS BLANCAS BORDER POINT ORDERED EVACUATED

PA222030Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1953 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[By Alberto Gomez]

[Text] Penas Blancas, Costa Rica, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican authorities today ordered a complete evacuation of this border point at which border administrative and customs offices operate.

Yesterday afternoon, at a distance of only 3 km from here, at the place known as "Puente Cabalceta," an armed clash took place between Costa Rican and Nicaraguan troops in which two Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen were killed.

The employees of the Immigration Department, the Agriculture Ministry and other state offices have left. Only Civil Guard contingents remain here.

Hundreds of Costa Rican policemen, well equipped and on a state of alert, are stationed at La Cruz, some 30 km from here. The Costa Rican policemen complain that their arms are inferior to those carried by the Nicaraguan National Guard.

They are not hiding their indignation at the fact that the Managua government has not returned the bodies of their two comrades who died yesterday afternoon in the border incident on Costa Rican territory, according to the version of President Rodrigo Carazo's government. For their part, Nicaraguan authorities claim that it took place on their side of the border.

Shops and schools in the area along the border have been closed.

The Costa Rican regional general staff is now at La Cruz.

This morning, a Radio Corporacion of Managua report was heard at this border point in which Civil Guard Capt Carmelo Diaz said that yesterday's incident may have occurred on the Nicaraguan side.

This report is contradicted by the accounts of local residents who were interviewed by this agency and affirmed that they saw a Nicaraguan Air Force helicopter land yesterday on Costa Rican territory to pick up the bodies of two Costa Rican officers, two wounded guardsmen, and Captain Diaz, all of whom were taken as prisoners.

Meanwhile, some 40 trucks were returned to San Jose because the border has remained closed since this morning when the San Jose government announced a break in relations with Managua.

According to unconfirmed rumors circulating among civilians in this area, several members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) have infiltrated among the refugees. Nonetheless, it is practically impossible to identify them because there are many Nicaraguan refugees in the area. There has been no official comment on this situation.

It is believed that the bodies of the policemen shot yesterday will be returned today through negotiations being conducted by the Costa Rican executive branch. Attention here is centered on that possibility, while in the capital it is centered on the OAS decision concerning Costa Rica's request that Nicaragua be expelled from that organization.

Border Reopened

PA222156Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] The visit to the border region undertaken by the Costa Rican Government concluded some minutes ago. La Cruz region and especially La Pimienta hill were visited by the presidency and public security ministers. They were also accompanied by government experts and local newsmen. The visit lasted some 20 minutes.

The site was inpsected by the ministers and public security officials. We saw the Nicaraguan National Guard some 100 meters from the place where the Costa Rican Civil Guardsman died. When the government's party arrived, the Nicaraguan National Guardsmen began to emerge from various points. There were some 2,500 of them. They apparently belong to the unit commanded by Anastasio Somoza, Jr.

The visit took place in a normal atmosphere. [words indistinct] the graphic information on today's visit and other matters related to the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan situation may be broadcast by television channels 4 and 9 at 2100. The place where the Costa Rican captain died and where two other soldiers were wounded, one of whom died in a Nicaraguan hospital, will be shown during the 2100 program.

The interior minister released some of the first reports a short time ago. Developments since today at noon are as follows: The northern border has been opened and free transit has been allowed. Costa Rican tourist officers as well as travelers passed through this post a few minutes ago. The customs office at the border post is operating normally and a large number of trucks which were parked along the Pan-American Highway have begun to pass. These are some of the first reports from the interior minister regarding the closing of the border. [recording indistinct]

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR LEAVES FOR MANAGUA

PA231739Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1726 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 23 Nov (AFP)--The Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica, Juan Bautista Lacayo, left today for Managua in the wake of the break in relations between the two countries on Tuesday. Lacayo, who held the post for the past 21 years, left aboard a private plane this morning. The ambassador, who is married to a Costa Rican citizen, Gladys Madrigal, said upon leaving that "20 years is a long time and I leave with fond memories of Costa Rica."

GOVERNMENT DENIES DETENTION OF NICARAGUAN SHIP

PA230301Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Government denied tonight that it has detained a ship of the Nicaraguan Mamenic Line. Reports from Managua claimed that the ship was being detained to pressure Nicaragua into returning two Costa Rican Civil Guard members and the bodies of two others.

Deputy Interior Minister Carlos Aquedas Lefranc said that the ship has not been under detention at any time. What happened, he said, is that information was received to the effect that a bomb had been placed on board, so national security agents immediately went to the port of Limon on the Atlantic coast where the boat is anchored to search for the bomb. Aquedas Lefranc said that it turned out to be a false alarm and that the ship can leave the port as soon as its cargo has been unloaded.

DIRECT TALKS HELD WITH VENEZUELA, PANAMA OVER CLASH

PA221715Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1437 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Gina Valdes interview with Minister of the Presidency Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri; date and place not given--presumably recorded]

[Excerpts] [Valdes] [Words indistinct] Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri on the way to the border in the company of Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey. But we will ask Mr Cordero Croceri to explain to us what their mission will be in the northern area in view of the events that took place yesterday afternoon when two Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen were murdered by the Nicaraguan National Guard and [word indistinct] the bodies, the wounded and a Civil Guard captain, Captain Arias.

[Cordero] The government feels that it is important for radio and press journalists to be present today at the border in order to verify the flagrant violation and abuse inflicted on our sovereignty and the murdering of our brothers in our national territory. The president of the republic personally instructed me to invite all press representatives to accompany me, together with the interior minister. We are now ready, [word indistinct] 0930 [local time], to leave for the border. We will then have further and more complete information for the media.

[Valdes] Last night you were in contact with the governments of Venezuela and Panama. Have you requested military assistance from these governments?

[Cordero] What we held was direct, informal talks within the scope of the cordial and friendly ties between our president and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, the president of Panama and General Torrijos, who called President Carazo to ask for information on the events that occurred yesterday afternoon at the border area. However, it has been decided that no military assistance is required at this time. In other words, no request has been made in this regard. As is known, there is a mutual defense pact between Costa Rica and Venezuela, to which either country can resort at any time. However, I repeat, up to this moment nothing has been done in that regard.

[Valdes] Have you had any report on the return of the bodies and kidnapped persons to Costa Rica? What are the latest reports the Costa Rican Government has received in this connection?

[Cordero] Last night we were making efforts until past midnight. The request made to President Carter is already known. It must not be misinterpreted. It is a humanitarian act. It was felt that he was the head of state who could best intervene in order for our fallen and wounded brothers to be returned to us. We hope that the necessary pressure will be brought upon the Nicaraguan president, that he still has some humanitarian feeling left so that he will return our brothers to us. We hope that this will happen today.

VENEZUELA OFFERS MILITARY AID 'WHENEVER COSTA RICA REQUESTS'

PA221628Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 22 Nov (AFP)--Venezuela will give military aid to Costa Rica upon receiving a request from President Rodrigo Carazo, it was reported here today after the Costa Rican president spoke with his Venezuelan colleague. On 15 September the two countries signed a mutual assistance agreement in the event either country is attacked by foreign forces.

It was also reported in official circles that President Carlos Andres Perez endorsed the Costa Rican decision to sever relations with the Nicaraguan Government. Both Venezuela and Panama, according to the same sources, may take similar steps.

Meanwhile, the minister of the interior and the presidency, Juan Jose Echeverria and Jose Rafael Cordero, respectively, this morning departed for the border area where incidents occurred last night between members of the Costa Rican Civil Guard and the Nicaraguan Army. The Civil Guard in this region was immediately reinforced with troops dispatched from the capital.

In statements announced here today, Juan Bautista Lacayo, the Nicaraguan ambassador whose residence was attacked last night by hundreds of demonstrators, asserted that "Costa Rica fell [words indistinct] Sandinists." Lacayo said that the attacks by Sandinist Front guerrillas in the border zone sought to provoke a confrontation between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. "Now they have achieved it," said the ambassador, who must leave this country within the next 24 hours.

EMBASSY IN PANAMA CLARIFIES ARMS PURCHASE

PA222037Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Nov 78 p 1 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Embassy in Panama, duly authorized and seeking to avoid a misunderstanding, announces that the Costa Rican Government is buying arms for 2 recently acquired patrol boats. It is not buying arms of any other type. The arms for the patrol boats are of the regular type used in guarding the coasts of Costa Rica and its territory and [the purchase] does not imply any hostility toward any government. Alejandro Alvarado Piza, ambassador

HELICOPTERS TO ARRIVE ON LOAN FROM PANAMA

PA240117Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2350 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[By Jose Joaquin Loria]

[Text] San Jose, 23 Nov (LATIN)--Two 20-passenger helicopters will arrive here today on loan from the Panamanian Government and a team of OAS observers is also expected within the next 24 hours, Costa Rican Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has revealed. [Words indistinct] Costa Rica is negotiating the purchase of combat planes with several countries, mainly Venezuela, Echeverria said in an exclusive interview with this correspondent.

The minister explained that "the Panamanian Government has lent us these helicopters which Costa Rica needs urgently to enable our Civil Guards to be taken rapidly to any part of our territory." "We can say that our number one priority is the purchase of helicopters, and the purchase of planes can take place over a longer period of time." Costa Rica is trying to purchase five 20-passenger helicopters from the United States, and once we get them, he added, we will return these two helicopters to the Panamanian Government.

Regarding the purchase of combat planes, Echeverria said that Costa Rica is trying to obtain these from several countries, mainly Venezuela, as a loan, rented or purchased, whichever is necessary. Costa Rica has no army, but Venezuela and Panama have ratified a mutual defense agreement to protect Costa Rica or give it military assistance as soon as it is requested, Echeverria pointed out. The minister told LATIN that a team of OAS observers is expected to arrive in the next few hours. Costa Rica, which broke diplomatic relations with Nicaragua this week following a border clash in which two Costa Rican Civil Guards were killed, has demanded that the OAS expel Somoza's regime.

Echeverria said that the authorities have chartered a Costa Rican Airlines (LACSA) plane to bring back all remaining Costa Rican diplomatic personnel from Nicaragua. Ambassador Virgilio Chaverri returned to Costa Rica 2 days ago following the breaking of relations. The minister stressed that any Costa Rican who is having difficulties in Nicaragua will be able to return on the LACSA plane.

AUTHORITIES CAPTURE 17 SANDINISTS IN SAN RAMON

PA222228Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2121 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] It has been confirmed that 17 Sandinists have been captured in San Ramon. The group includes a 20-year-old woman. The rest of the group is made up of very young men. The canton delegate informed our correspondent that the 17 Sandinists will be taken to San Jose this afternoon. No further information has been released in accordance with instructions given to San Ramon officials.

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT DENIES GIVING MILITARY AID TO NICARAGUA

PA230008Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Nov (AFP)--El Salvador denied today that it is giving military aid to the Nicaraguan Government as the Washington POST had stated. Rafael Flores Lima, secretary of information of the Salvadoran presidency, also denied the charge, attributed by the press to Panamanian National Guard chief Omar Torrijos, that El Salvador is buying weapons for the army on the free market.

Flores said that in the past few months El Salvador has not bought arms or military equipment for defense. He said that "if a purchase is negotiated it will be done between governments." However, he admitted that weapons for the police were acquired on the free market, stating that "one should not confuse the purchase of equipment for the police with equipment that is used by the army."

He expressed regrets in the name of his government over the border incident that led to the break in relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica yesterday. He also announced that Salvadoran President Carlos Romero has accepted President Jose Lopez-Portillo's invitation to visit Mexico. He did not disclose the date of the visit, expressing surprise that it was announced in Mexico that Romero would visit that country in December.

HONDURAS

BORDER WITH NICARAGUA CLOSED, MILITARILY REINFORCED

PA221505Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1432 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--It was announced here today, Wednesday, that the Honduran Government yesterday evening decided to close its borders with Nicaragua as a result of the tense prewar [as received] political situation in that country. Meanwhile, the Honduran Army has reinforced its border posts to prevent Sandinist guerrilla groups from attacking the National Guard of Nicaragua.

It has also been reported that Honduras maintains its neutrality regarding the Nicaraguan situation and that it will not be a guerrilla sanctuary or a hunting ground for forces loyal to Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

The patrolling of the extensive Honduran-Nicaraguan border has been assigned to special troops who patrol it day and night to guarantee the territorial integrity and neutrality of Honduras. According to reports, the closing of the border with Nicaragua affects only Nicaraguans wanting to enter Honduras, but not citizens from other countries and Nicaraguans wanting to go to Nicaragua.

In reiterating Honduras' neutrality in the Nicaraguan conflict, the government responded to reports published in the New York TIMES and the Washington STAR, two U.S. newspapers, which reported that Honduran territory is being used to train Sandinists. The U.S. newspapers have even suggested to U.S. President Jimmy Carter that he ask the governments of Honduras and El Salvador not to send soldiers to fight on the side of the Somoza troops.

The Honduran Government has made it clear that its troops remain in their territory to safeguard the sovereignty and neutrality of the country.

GOVERNMENT MAY MEDIATE NICARAGUA-COSTA RICA CONFLICT

PA231955Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The Honduran Government may act as a mediator between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in order to restore diplomatic relations between the two nations, broken since Tuesday.

This was suggested today by Honduran Foreign Minister Roberto Palma Galvez in statements to the Tegucigalpa newspaper LA PRENSA. Palma did not elaborate, however.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA REFUSES TO RELINQUISH POWER TO 'COMMUNISTS'

PA231438Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Nicaraguan strongman Anastasio Somoza said curtly today that he is not afraid of the threats of several nations to sever relations with his country and that he is not prepared to turn over power to the communists.

During an extensive statement that he made to the Mexican radio station (?XE), Somoza said that Costa Rica's decision to break relations with Nicaragua is absurd, (?stupid) and harmful to American [word indistinct]. In an irate tone, the 57-year old [word indistinct] said that we are not afraid of Venezuelan and Panamanian arms because the National Guard is in a position to confront any enemy.

He regarded as (?unfounded) the (?versions) contained in the OAS report against Nicaragua and said that, in America, there are some who violate human rights every day and they are neither sanctioned nor reprimanded.

Somoza again criticized Colombia's position of [calling for] sanctions against his country and said that the statements of its foreign minister did not worry him because the death of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, which left a bitter taste in the mouth of American democracy, is still latent in Colombia.

Somoza recalled that the state of siege and martial law are still in effect in Nicaragua and said that the enemy will be combatted at any price anywhere.

COSTA RICA DELIVERS NOTE SEVERING RELATIONS

PA230305Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2309 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Antonio Guindos Urbina, Costa Rican charge d'affaires in Managua, delivered to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry today the formal note breaking diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The note was delivered to Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana at the building occupied by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in the provisional civic center.

When he left the minister's office, Guindos Urbina told newsmen that Ambassador Virgilio Chaverri has been in San Jose since 7 November with a slight illness. The diplomat fell ill as a result of the events which yesterday culminated with the rupture of relations.

SOMOZA DECRIES BREAK IN RELATIONS, SAYS SHIP BEING HELD

PA222150Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2117 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 22 Nov (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza labeled as "absurd and whimsical" the Costa Rican Government's decision to break relations with his country, according to statements learned here today.

Somoza, who was interviewed in Managua by the Colombian RCN network, also said that Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen had crossed the Nicaraguan border and "attacked" a patrol.

On another matter he stated that Costa Rica is holding a Nicaraguan ship at Puerto Limon and denied that Civil Guardsmen had been kidnaped or wounded by Nicaraguan troops.

Somoza stated that the Nicaraguan border has not been closed, "not even with Costa Rica," and disclaimed knowledge of the alleged presence of Venezuelan airplanes near Nicaragua.

RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA RUMORED BROKEN

PA230319Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0244 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Rumors are circulating about Nicaragua's break of diplomatic relations with Costa Rica. An urgent cable which reached our teletype room from Asuncion, Paraguay says that the Nicaraguan National Defense Minister Gen Guillermo Noguera Zamora said here today that his country broke diplomatic relations with Costa Rica in the wake of an incursion by Civil Guardsmen from the neighboring country into Nicaraguan territory.

Reports from Managua, however, said today that Anastasio Somoza's Government had still not made any comment on the break of relations which, it was reported from Costa Rica, had been decided upon by President Rodrigo Carazo. General Noguera Zamora was received by Paraguayan President Gen Alfredo Stroessner to report on various aspects of the situation in Nicaragua.

General Noguera Zamora later told newsmen that he informed General Stroessner about the incursion of Costa Rican Civil Guard forces into Nicaraguan territory and that his country broke relations with Costa Rica in the wake of the said incursion during which, he stated, there were casualties and injuries and an unspecified number of Costa Rican soldiers in Managua fell into the hands of the National Guard.

The minister arrived in Asuncion yesterday and met with Paraguayan Defense Minister Gen Marcial Samaniego and then with Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues. Noguera Zamora said he will continue his trip to other countries in the hemisphere today without specifying which ones.

Therefore, in Asuncion, Paraguay, Nicaragua's national defense minister has said that Nicaragua broke diplomatic relations with Costa Rica in the wake of an incursion of Civil Guardsmen from the neighboring country into Nicaraguan territory.

COSTA RICAN GUARDSMAN REPORTEDLY ADMITS INTRUSION

PA221744Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1649 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Carmelo Diaz Jimenez, the Costa Rican Civil Guard captain captured yesterday following a clash with Nicaraguan troops, told NOVEDADES, Managua's semiofficial newspaper, on Wednesday that his guards penetrated Nicaraguan territory by a regrettable error.

In statements published in this newspaper, which is owned by the Somoza family, Diaz Jimenez revealed at the Sopoa headquarters, 4 km from the Costa Rican border, that his guardsmen fired upon a Nicaraguan patrol believing them to be Sandinist guerrillas. Two Civil Guardsmen were killed, one was captured and two were wounded in the incident.

"The Costa Rican Civil Guard was conducting mopping up operations in the border area," Jimenez emphasized. "I admit that we were in Nicaragua," the Costa Rican captain concluded, according to the daily NOVEDADES, which also carries a series of photographs of Diaz Jimenez to support the report.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS RELEASE OF COSTA RICAN OFFICER

PA232007Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Communique No 71 issued by Nicaraguan National Guard headquarters on 23 November 1978 on release of Costa Rican Capt Jose Carmelo Diaz Jimenez; via Managua Estacion X--presumably recorded]

[Text] The Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard informs the citizens that Capt Carmelo Diaz Jimenez of the Costa Rican Civil Guard will be turned over to the Costa Rican military authorities at noon today at the border in Penas Blancas. According to doctor's orders, Costa Rican Guardsman Gabriel Sanabria Alvarado is unable to make the trip.

[Signed] Aquiles Aranda Escobar, colonel, (?C.L.) G.N., chief of the Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard

MANAGUA POLICE COMMUNIQUE REPORTS LIFTING OF CURFEW

PA222306Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0345 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Communique issued on 21 November 1978 by the general headquarters command of the Managua police, 2d National Guard Battallion--read by announcer]

[Text] National Guard Infantry Col Nicolas Valle Salinas, police commander in Managua, National District, most respectfully informs the population in Managua Department and its municipalities:

1. That the Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard in communique No 268 of today, 21 November 1978, informed all citizens of the resolution issued by his excellency the president of the republic whereby the orders limiting the free circulation of the citizens--in other words the curfew--are repealed;

2. That this derogation involves the suspension of the curfew, in other words the maximum time which had been set at 2200. Therefore [words indistinct] all citizens of Managua and its municipalities, as well as of the entire country, will be able to circulate freely without any sort of restraints 24 hours a day. This by no means indicates that police surveillance will disappear, because the citizens must be aware and certain that protection of their physical integrity and personal property will be maintained in [words indistinct] fashion and that it will continue to be the concern of the police to preserve domestic peace, individual civil rights and the security of honest people;

3. That martial law and the state of siege remain in effect.

Managua, National District, 21 November 1978 [Signed] Nicolas Valle Salinas, National Guard infantry colonel, Managua police commander

FSLN CONDUCTS ISOLATED ACTIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA221221Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2352 GMT 21 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 21 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The "Carlos Arroyo Buitrago" brigade composed of three men and one woman today robbed the main vault of the Banco Nicaraguense (BANIC) branch in the city of Leon, 92 km west of Managua.

The Sandinist brigade held at gunpoint the watchmen and bank personnel who were getting ready to begin work at gunpoint. The Sandinists fled with approximately 1 million cordobas ($142,857), although the bank authorities have not announced the exact figure since an audit must be undertaken.

Meanwhile, a guerrilla action was reported on the border with Honduras. An armed group which indentified itself as a Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) faction attacked the customs and immigration post of Las Manos. They stole 6,000 cordobas ($857). Before leaving, they cut the telegraph lines to the small town of Dipilto.

Near the border with Costa Rica another guerrilla group slaughtered 100 head of cattle of the "Palo de Arco" ranch, taking part of the meat with them.

On the Atlantic coast, where the guerrillas had only sporadically carried out incursions, an insurgent group arrived at the telegraph and post office (telcor) in the city of Bluefields, painting FSLN slogans and distributing communiques among those present.

OFFICIAL MILITARY REPORTS INDICATE CALM

PA230324Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Nov (LATIN)--Military reports from various parts of Nicaragua indicate that the country is calm 12 hours after the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) declared that the talks with the international mediation commission which is seeking a peaceful solution to this country's crisis had been broken off.

The report was issued by Col Aquiles Aranda, chief of public relations of the National Guard. He added that the armed forces continue to be in a state of alert due to the announcements made inside and outside Nicaragua regarding plans for a new armed uprising against President Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

It has been reported that a military patrol was attacked on the road to Masaya and that a store in southeast Managua was robbed. There have been no reports of casualties in the attack on the military patrol. In telephone calls to several radio stations the Sandinist National Liberation Front took credit for robbing the store. They said that the operation was carried out by the Jose Benito Escobar squad, whose members stole almost $300.

MEDIATORS SUBMIT NEW PROPOSAL TO SOLVE CRISIS

PA231957Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua--The U.S., Guatemalan and Dominican mediators have urged Somoza and his political adversaries to put their conflict before the people through a referendum to settle the issue of whether Somoza should stay in power, a source close to the mediators said today.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that a response to the proposal submitted to Somoza and the opposition alliance will be required tomorrow. The effort came one day after the broad opposition front [FAO], a coalition of parties, trade union leaders, industrialists and merchants, broke off talks with Somoza's government.

ARCHBISHOP ASKS FOR CONTINUATION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

PA232226Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1840 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The archbishop of Managua, Miguel Obando y Bravo, has asked Nicaraguan leaders to use the talents which the Lord has given them and place them at the service of the fatherland and the community to prevent further bloodshed in Nicaragua. Very evidently worried about the turn in the political crisis of this Central American nation, the prelate told ACAN-EFE today, Thursday, that he had made the request to a group of leaders of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) and the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) with whom he met yesterday in the archbishop's palace. He regretted that the international mediating commission had taken so long to present to the parties involved in the Nicaraguan conflict the proposal for a plebiscite with an international guarantee that the people could freely express their feelings--without any fears of future reprisals--as to whether the president should stay until the end of his mandate in 1981 or leave power.

"The visitors presented a report to me on civic procedures being carried out to seek a solution to the crisis. There are various opinions, but it seems that most of them are along the line that we must seek peace through the most civil means," Monsignor Obando y Bravo stated.

He emphasized that new bloodshed would not serve the country at all, but only bring more mourning to the Nicaraguans. It was extremely necessary to seek peace for everyone's sake. The Catholic prelate invited all political leaders of the country, as well as leaders of other activities and thinking men of the country, to determine if it is still possible to reach peace.

"As archbishop of Managua, I note that the international mediators have not obtained what we wanted, although we must admit they have worked hard. Unfortunately, we have not reached the formula that will lessen tension, although, as a man of this church, I must be a man of hope, and hope is the last thing we should lose," the prelate added.

He urged the national leaders to continue seeking mechanisms that will promote peace and warned that war only brings more death and engenders more hatred among the Nicaraguan family. "Therefore, I invite all these men to place their talents in the service of the fatherland in these difficult moments. As Christians we are obliged to promote and defend life, and war goes against life, which is a human being's most precious possession," Monsignor Obando y Bravo concluded.

GUERRILLAS PLAN NEW ACTION AS MEDIATION CONTINUES

PA232212Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2127 GMT 23 Nov 78 PA

[By Augustin Fuentes]

[Excerpt] Managua, 23 Nov (LATIN)--Nicaraguan guerrillas today announced an upcoming offensive as groups of armed youths took automobiles away from taxi drivers to use them in actions against the government and the international mediating commission tried to find a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan crisis. The clandestine radio Sandino today exhorted the Nicaraguan people to prepare for the coming offensive by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and for the final battle to overthrow the dictatorship of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle. The guerrilla radio, which transmits bulletins at 0600, [figures indistinct] and at 2200 from somewhere in Nicaragua, warned [passage indistinct].

Meanwhile, "La Completa" dairy today reported that 3 of its delivery vehicles were attacked in the last 24 hours. Officials of the firm said that armed youths took over the vehicles from the drivers [and distributed] the load among inhabitants of the poor sectors of the capital. Similar activities followed guerrilla actions against the government which have prompted the authorities to "redouble vigilance in the Managua area." The international mediating commission made up of representatives from the Dominican, Guatemalan and U.S. Governments, is still in Managua despite the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) decision to suspend negotiations with the group.

CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARD, SANDINISTS

PA240124Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Five National Guardsmen have been killed by Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] members. Further clashes took place today in Valle Guadalupe and Pueblo Nuevo on Nicaraguan soil, 3 hours from downtown Upala. The clash took place between Somoza elements and the Sandinist Front.

Confirmed confidential reports say that in the area known as Pueblo Nuevo in Nicaraguan territory, five National Guardsmen died in clashes with the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Another clash took place at the northern border near Upala.

Three National Guardsmen died in the clash between FSLN members and the National Guard this morning in the border area near Upala according to reports that reached the capital. The armed clash occurred when Sandinists occupied an important zone in the area south of Nicaragua. New clashes were reported in the afternoon in the same area, but no details have been learned since Costa Rican authorities have given assurances that they have no reports, even though it was reported that the incidents are being investigated.

One clash took place from 0500 to 0600 today near the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border at the places known as Valle de Guadalupe and Pueblo Nuevo. Our reporters' confirmed reports disclosed the death of Ramiro Valle and four other guardsmen. The rural guard and public security are aware of this, but the matter has been kept in the strictest confidence.

CASTRO DISCUSSES PRISONER RELEASE, MIG PLANES

FL221631Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1501 GMT 22 Nov 78 FL

[Text of press conference granted by President Fidel Castro at the conclusion of the meeting with representatives of the Cuban community abroad; date and place not given--read by announcer]

[Text] (Marta Ortiz): With pleasure. [as heard]

(Marta Solis, Mexico's magazine SIEMPRE): Well, Commander, after 2 days of meeting with the members of the Cuban community in exile, what can you tell us? What was accomplished? Were the three points agreed to? What news do you have for us and the world?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Can you hear me? I do not know whether I will have to use the microphone. Can you hear me, yes or no?

(Newsman): No. Please use the microphone. It will be better. That way we will be able to hear you.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): I can answer to that by saying that considerable progress was made on the three points. Regarding the visits we wish to announce the Cuban Government's readiness to receive visits by Cuban citizens residing abroad beginning January, individually in cases for humanitarian reasons and collectively for the rest, with very few exceptions.

(Marta Solis): Is that also beginning January?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Yes. Beginning January those who left the country prior to and after the revolution will be able to come. That also includes those who left illegally. We have included them. They may come. But, if in this dialog there were some who had left illegally and were here, it is a paradox. This includes those who have pending court cases. This will not be taken into consideration when visiting the country. Like any other state, we will have exceptions, our minimal exclusions. I myself do not know which they will be, but I imagine it will be cases of the more terrorist types which want to wage a holy war, agents of the CIA and others. Summing up, not because they were but because they are.

(Newsman): What about the cases of Cubans who want to visit abroad?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): That also but, based on our economic resources, we believe we are ready to permit them in cases for humanitarian reasons.

(Newsman): If someone pays for the trip, what then, Commander?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): If someone pays for the trip we would always prefer that, of course. But if it is a case for real humanitarian reasons where no one pays for it and someone has to go, we would be willing to pay for it. It must be borne in mind that trips now are very long. Sometimes one has to go to Spain to travel to Miami. Well, that is very expensive.

(Marta Solis): But, going back to what was achieved.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): We have achieved this based on the terms I proposed, that is, for visits here, very broad, individually or collectively in accordance with the cases; for visits abroad, in accordance with cases for humanitarian reasons.

We believe that once started, when conditions are more favorable, in the future, perhaps, it can be expanded to visits in general, any type of individual visits, and visits abroad in greater numbers. Our limitations are the economic resources because our foreign exchange has to be watched very carefully,using it mainly for education, health, economic and social development plans. In reality, we cannot undertake tourism.

(Guillermo Ubizu, Miami telcvision station Channel 10): Commander, what conclusions have you reached with respect to political prisoners?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Let us go on to point No 2; do you agree it will be better that way? Let us follow some sort of order. Do you want me to asnwer point No 2 and then the other one? Or, do I answer the other on the other point? That way we will follow the order in which we more or less are making the announcement. This point of the visits does not depend on any one. The other two points do not depend on us alone. They depend on the attitude that the United States will adopt. We are ready to authorize departure from the country of all those justified cases that are aimed at reuniting families. On the contrary, but more exceptionally in very special cases, the answer is no. We have to deal with limitations. Our limitations are housing and other resources. But, we wish to make known our readiness to facilitate the reunification of families by way of authorizing departure from the country to those who want to join relatives in the United States or other places. No, it includes spouses, minor children, older handicapped children. It also includes cases of those who left and the children were unable to depart because they were of military draft age. We will facilitate the exit if they want to leave, of course. But that point does not depend on us alone. We have expressed our willingness with relation to this, our policy and our aim of finding this solution so long as the United States agrees, because the largest number of families are in the United States.

I do not believe other governments will object to this, but the key to the whole thing is the United States. If the United States is ready or not to facilitate that reunification of families in cases of Cubans who want to go to the United States to rejoin their relatives, it is something that does not depend on us. That is one point which will remain pending, that of allowing this group of Cubans time to go back to the United States and make every effort to make the possibility a reality. In closing, the point that appeared in the agenda as point No 1 was the one discussed the most, the one that was debated the longest. Well, practically all of the 75 Cubans who were here took up all the points and gave a broad explanation of their opinions on those and other problems.

Our delegation listened to them with great attention and interest. Our party, our party leadership has followed the discussions very closely. It has been informed on the proceedings so that a response could be given at all instances to the proposals made by them. Naturally, I began by explaining to them that we were not going to establish conditions to this group of personalities representing the emigration of the Cuban community abroad because we were neither discussing nor wanting to discuss the problem with the United States. That is why we are not establishing conditions. All this is the result of a new policy, a constructive policy. We explained in detail why it had to be discussed before reaching decisions.

Regarding the prisoners, which was the point most widely discussed, we make known our willingness to release 3,000 prisoners accused of crimes against the security of the state [applause], accused of crimes perpetrated during the days of the tyranny, so long as the United States is willing to admit those who, because their families or friends are in the United States, want to travel to the United States. So that the implementation of this purpose or our proposal will ultimately depend on the United States' willingness to admit the major part of these prisoners who want to travel to the United States.

We have stated that we would release a minimum of 400 prisoners per month. This is a mimimum. It could be more. It will not depend on us alone, but also on the United States itself. That is a minimum of 400 per month, out of which--according to polls taken--50 to 60 percent want to travel to the United States because their families or friends are there. We estimate it will be between 50 and 60 percent. That is why we estimate that between 200 and 250 of each group of 400 will have to be admitted to the United States. I have given low figures. That does not mean that we are making it a minimum. It could be 500, maybe 600. It will depend on U.S. willingness to admit them. On the other hand, I do not believe the United States will object to it because the United States, the North American state, because of its hostile policy, as leader of the counterrevolution, as instigator and promoter of the counterrevolution--an activity which was undertaken by several U.S. governments--has the obligation of assuming that minimum of historic responsibility and, as an obvious good gesture, if those who were led to the struggle against the revolution and were led to the prisons because of the U.S. policy, that they be given admission there.

Thus the implementation of this offer will now depend on the U.S. Government's willingness to admit those prisoners who want to leave, those who want to travel to the United States. We explained that we cannot massively release the prisoners and have them face unemployment, inadaptability problems, waiting for the Greek calends to be admitted to the United States to rejoin their relatives or to start a new life. At the same time, we would like to voice our willingness, which was reiterated to this group of representatives of the community and were asked to negotiate the solution of the problem of former inmates, because we should not confuse those who are currently in prison with former inmates.

For us we have observed that the U.S. Government has been dragging its feet in this, acting slow, not showing a special interest in solving this problem and has followed the procedure of leaving travel to the United States of these citizens to the Greek calends. Several lists, including the names of former inmates and some who were still in prison, were sent to the United States. It was a total of 48, which was the figure we initially gave on 6 September. These lists were sent to the State Department several weeks ago. We have been sending lists. I do not recall the exact number but there were several. Some prisoners were included in them, the majority of whom were included due to unemployment and indaptability problems or because the relatives of friends are in the United States.

In reality I cannot understand this. I do not understand it because at one time the United States tried to take from our country all the technicians, all the qualified workers, all the physicians, hundreds of thousands of persons. They took from us half of the physicians we had in the country and despite that we accepted the challenge and today we have many more, more than twice, who are highly qualified. We even have many physicians working abroad. But the United States, which at one time followed a policy that encouraged emigration; why does the U.S. Government now resist and refuse to provide a solution to the problem of these men who went to jail, mainly due to the U.S. policy? I believe that no U.S. Government can evade that responsibility, much less a government which has voiced such rhetoric on human rights.

(Newsman): Commander: Is the Government of Cuba going to free all political prisoners or are there exceptions?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): There are exceptions. Let us say that we will release more than 80 percent of the prisoners. We maintain what we stated on 6 September, that we will not release those involved in serious crimes, crimes of the tyranny or those in the cases of elements related to terrorist groups because we have no interest in feeding terrorist groups, the ranks of terrorist groups which are capable of committing crimes like the brutal and monstrous sabotage of the plane that exploded on a flight between Barbados and Havana.

These events are quite recent and we in no way really want to feed the ranks of those terrorist groups. Our wish is that no one remain imprisoned but the release of all is absolutely impossible under current conditions. I believe there is in the world a strong awareness of condemnation of terrorism. These terrorist elements have committed crimes not only against Cuba but also within the United States. [They have committeed] many crimes. You are aware that the proceedings in the assassination of Letelier, in which these terrorist elements were in the pay of Chilean fascism, are currently in full progress. And common mercenaries and elements associated with those [terrorist] groups are hiring themselves out for pay to all types of governments. And we are not willing to release them. If proper conditions are created someday, if such activities cease someday, if a normal climate exists someday, we would be the first to feel happy in seeing that there is absolutely no one in prison. And regarding the cases of crimes of the tyranny, there are some very serious ones which lead to discontent among our own population because they are very big crimes. And, as you know, more than 40 years ago, or at least more than 30 years ago, the Nuremberg trials took place and still there are prisoners as a result of the Nuremberg trials. And there are still persons being persecuted and prosecution for war crimes continues. And here we are really dealing with war crimes. Nevertheless, we do not hold an inflexible position on this question. And if the proper conditions are created someday, we would be willing to consider the release of all of them because, of course, one must bear in mind what it means to be imprisoned for a prolonged number of years. In any case we always consider age, health status and other factors which we have kept in mind in releasing some of these prisoners.

(Newsman): Mr President: How about the cases of illegal departures?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): There is one detail missing on the prisoners. We also have a group of prisoners who are not considered counterrevolutionary prisoners or prisoners for crimes against the security of the state. These are the prisoners for illegal departures. But in a certain manner they have been related to the question of emigres and the community, and we have offered them our willingness to release approximately 600 prisoners involved in illegal departures not linked to problems of crimes against the security of the state because it would be discriminatory to release some who were involved in the two types [of crimes] and not allow others. We also have expressed our willingness in this regard. Of course, these are agreements in principle which we have reached and they have not been formalized. It is now necessary that they [the community representatives] take specific steps to see if these possibilities we have proposed can be fulfilled so that later, at a next meeting, we can reach a formal and definitive agreement on these matters. In other words, we have reached agreements in principle and we have expressed our willingness. It now depends essentially on the position of the Government of the United States.

(Newsman): Excuse me, Commander: I want to clear up something regarding the 600. Are these 600 the total or what is the percentage for illegal departures?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Actually, none of them will remain because a part of them have been included because they were cases of illegal departures linked to counterrevolutionary actions. There might be some who are excluded because they are associated with common crimes or other violations of common laws. These in no way are classified as prisoners against the state or for political reasons. They are violations of immigration laws. But since they have been associated with this problem and there are several hundred of them, practically all of them are going to leave, unless there is a common crime involved in one way or another, or they leave because they have other crimes against the security of the state or because we are not going to keep them here. [sentence as heard] That is why we, because of the logic itself of the agreements we have reached in principle with them, [presumably the community abroad] we have decided to place them--the ones for illegal departures--in a separate category and take steps to release these prisoners.

(Newsman Valeriani, NBC): Mr President: Why has your government now decided to release these prisoners?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Well, I am going to tell you. For a long time, for 20 years, we have been releasing prisoners. What do you think of that? In 1961, we decided to release most of the Giron invaders. Over the years, we have released more than 12,000 prisoners. These now are the remainder. But, of course, we have never made a massive release, but only a gradual one. I believe that present conditions have now been created for this. This could not have been done in the past. We could not even consider it because there was a situation of great hostility from the United States during the time when the CIA and U.S. Government were planning the assassination of leaders of the revolution, sabotage, counterrevolution, landing of weapons and were maintaining an active war against the Cuban revolution. This [release] could not have been considered during any previous government from Kennedy to Ford, because one must not forget that under the Ford administration these groups executed the sabotage of the plane in Barbados and this occurred after the thing in Angola. And it has been learned that these groups had contacts with the CIA. This even appeared in a trial in Miami. Therefore, even in the Carter administration there has been a truly hostile and aggressive policy against Cuba on the part of the U.S. Government. Let us say that the current administration ceased to support, at least basing ourselves on its budget, terrorist groups and subversive plans against Cuba. It does not mean that it is not hostile. It is still hostile. We believe it is less hostile but recently we have had proof of its hostile position. But basing ourselves on its budget, we think that this administration has ceased [such support] and has made certain gestures. Lately, it has made some gestures that are truly negative ones. But we already had made our proposals to the Cuban community and we did not want to back out in any way. Therefore, we decided to go on with our proposals. But one of the circumstances which led to this policy was the fact that the policy of hostility toward us has apparently ceased. We cannot assert that Carter may be planning attacks on the leaders of the Cuban revolution or promoting subversive or terrorist plans. And we continue to believe that so far he has not been involved in activities of this sort. Therefore, these are new circumstances. These new circumstances allow the possibility of formulating a policy of this type. It could not have been done before. I believe that what can be and should be done under the circumstances in which they can be done are now being done. That is the situation.

(Newsman): Allow me to ask you this question in English: In recent days, the United States has been expressing great concern over the presence of Soviet Mig-23 aircraft in your country, and my question is: To what extent can this U.S. attitude affect the prisoner release program? I should also like you, sir, to tell me exactly what is the capability of these planes and how you plan to use them?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): I am going to answer you although I am not too good in English. But I have heard you talk of Mig-23's and that the United States is concerned and how this can affect the release [of prisoners]. I am going to tell you, in the first place, that we do have Mig-23's and there have been Mig-23's in Cuba for a year. It was planned many years ago. It was included in the future plan for development of our armed forces. They have been flying and maneuvering for the last 8 months. Furthermore, it is no secret that they are expected to participate in the 2 January parade [as heard, parade normally held 2 December]. This is known by everyone and the United States knows it perfectly well, and not because we have told them, because we have no obligation to tell this to the United States or to inform it on the equipment of our armed forces, but the U.S. intelligence services are not such idiots as to ignore their existence. The United States knows this perfectly well. They are tactical planes, absolutely defensive. Therefore, this pseudo-crisis, this farce, has been mounted in recent days because someone has said that history was repeating itself. Once it was a tragedy and this time it is a farce. The tragedy could have been in 1962 and the contrived (traida de los pelos) and artificially fabricated farce on the Mig-23's. I should not be the one to be asked why this has been done.

The U.S. Government should be the one which should be asked why it has done it, why it has created this farce, why all this scandal, why this pseudo-crisis, why all this ridiculous thing? This is what should be asked of the U.S. Government. And it is the height of fantasy and the riduculous to be concerned because we have some planes of this type which are not strategic planes. What we should be asked is if we are concerned over the fact that the United States has hundreds of B-52's and thousands of strategic planes and bombers and tens of thousands of atomic bombs. It is the United States which should be asked if this does not concern us. And what sort of a country and what sort of moral standard can that country have when it creates a scandal and almost a crisis because of the fact that Cuba has a few Mig-23 planes which are not strategic and are tactical and defensive? [applause]

Of course, I do not know why or what the reason is. It is a mystery why they have created this situation now. But, in answer to your question, it will not affect in the least our program of dialogs with representatives of the community and it will not affect in the least the issue of release of prisoners. [applause]

(Newsman): Commander: Then, this dialog is going to continue?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): For our part, we are willing to continue them.

(Newsman): How about the question of women prisoners?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): The representatives of the community were very much interested in and insisted tremendously on the question of women prisoners. And there are a few. There are not many women prisoners in Cuba. There are around 50. There were a few who were in the category linked to terrorist groups but we express our willingness to include them all in this prgram of releasing 3,000 prisoners.

(Newsman, Miami HERALD): The Miami [HERALD] recently received a letter signed by 100 political prisoners who are opposed to the dialog. Are they going to be released even though they signed the letter?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): This shows the freedom of expression that exists in Cuban prisons. There can be no better example of democracy than when 100 prisoners can write a letter to the Miami HERALD expressing their opposition to the dialog. No. We are not guided by that. We are not guided by that criterion. It depends on the type of persons they are and why they signed the letter. No. That is not the fundamental problem.

(Marta Solis, SIEMPRE magazine): Commander: Let there be a list made up of the 100 prisoners who want to conclude being prisoners. They are opposed to the dialog and not to their release.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Well, I do not know. That is their affair. We do not want to have volunteer prisoners here. Of course, we do not want them. [laughter]

(Walt Sinclair, Washington POST): Do you have any official or unofficial indication from the U.S. Government which could be considered an obstacle to the quick departure of prisoners, former prisoners and their relatives?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Look. The first lists were submitted to them months ago and the only group decided upon was the first group. This is a period...well, this is late November, almost 3 months ago...in a period of almost 3 months it has decided on a small group only and an infinite number of lists have been sent to it [the U.S. Government].

They sent some people to investigate and reinvestigate. But it is a procedure that is evidently delaying one which the United States has followed with regard to this.

(Walt Sinclair, Washington POST: And they have not indicated that they are going to speed it up?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): No. Actually we do not have any (?indication).

(Alfredo Munoz, AFP): Commander: I understand that these decisions you have just announced were made today by the Communist Party Politburo?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Well, we have been discussing all these problems, all this policy, the proposals, the reasons. Now, during the dialog, all the comrades were constantly informed on the content of the dialog. And finally today we finished around 6 this afternoon. And we met for about 2 hours analyzing the proposals and the replies which were a collective decision of the Politburo.

(Miami HERALD reporter): Commander, are you disappointed by the fact that Tony Cuesta did not participate in this commission of exiles?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): No, in reality we could of course, could have come because as a result of the first contacts made various persons voiced interest in him and made possible his departure. He could have participated but it was not essential. He had not committed himself to participate in the dialog. He was told that if he wanted he could participate but it was his personal decision. He made the decision and I do not know his reasons for not participating because he expressed great interest in a solution of this type. He expressed his support for finding a formula of this type to resolve the release of the prisoners. He said, and I want to make this known, that it was a long war and they had been defeated in that war, that they had to learn to be good losers.

(Newsman): Commander, if you will allow me. According to a newspaper account, he recently declared that it was more important to go to Washington to take up the admission of the prisoners than to come here to talk.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Yes, I do not believe that is the case. It is not in Washington where the prisoners are going to be released, it is here in Cuba. That is in the first place. So, the most important thing is to talk here in Cuba and, after reaching this type of agreement, then solve the problems with those who can obstruct this, which is whether they grant permission to go there. Starting from the logical theory that the United States took the relatives over there it must be borne in mind that the United States even made Cuesta's return difficult. It took a long time to do it. Cuesta was not a resident of Cuba, he was a resident of Miami. He came from Miami to conduct his activities so he had a right to return there. This was slow. Finally, Cuesta got married and then there were obstacles for his wife's departure. At the last minute Cuesta's wife departed. But they event made it difficult for Cuesta to return there.

The problem, of course, had to be discussed here, but it has to be assumed that the United States has a moral obligation to admit these prisoners who have relatives or friends, or who participated in actions here at the encouragement of the U.S. Government. It is an obligation of the North American state, no matter who is president. Once it had been discussed here it had to be discussed there. But I believe that those persons who have participated in the disucssions here certainly are part of a very select group. We can truly say that more than 70 percent of those who participated in the dialog are university professors. They are professors and are very eminent in the U.S. community. It was a broad representation. It was not a group of friends of Cuba--even though there were some persons who were friendly toward the revolution--and there was no reason to exclude them. Why exclude them?

There were some men representing several generations of politicians. That can be said. There were some men who participated in the Batista regime, men who later participated in all this process of the struggle against the revolution. So there were men representing three generations of politicians. There were some from the Antonio Maceo Brigade, which is a new generation. They were taken to the United States at a very young age and today they are adults. They now have their own opinions and thoughts. Thus it can be said that three generations of Cuban politicans have met here. This group counts among its members highly qualified persons, well educated, and I believe they can perfectly conduct the required negotiations with the U.S. Government. We do not believe that anyone can take credit for this. No one in the United States has the right to take credit for or monopolize this problem.

This should not be used as a political football. This is a serious matter. There should be no demagoguery, nor exhibitionsm. It seems to me that this group is perfectly prepared to conduct the necessary negotiations in the United States. We not not recognize any other group. We only recognize this group and talk with this group. [applause]

(Newsman): Are Huber Matos and Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo included in that group of 3,000 political prisoners to be released by the Cuban Government?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): I explained that in the case of Huber Matos there was no objection, that he was not excluded. In the case of Menoyo, no definite decision has been reached. It is a case that needs careful study within the concept of members of terrorists groups, but no decision has yet been made.

(Newsman): How about those of Playa Giron, Commander?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): I do not know, because if you ask about specific cases it is difficult for me to answer. I do not have all the information but I believe that the majority, at least, if not all, will be released. That is my opinion. Each case would have to be examined. I cannot give a specific answer but I think that, if not all, the majority will be included. The largest number is included in that 80 percent, and it includes the best known and most important.

(Newsman): Mr President, are you waiting for the United States to do something in reciprocity?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): No, we do not want them to do anything. It is of no interest to us. Let them do what they please. [applause] We are not going to beg for actions from the United States, or beg for favors. The only thing that we expect from them is to fulfill their moral obligation, which is to allow these prisoners and former inmates into the United States.

(Marta Solis): The Latin American jails are filled with political prisoners.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): It would be a good thing if they would copy our gesture. [applause]

(Newsman): Mr President, has the invited group shown a great interest in expanding communications between the two countries? What can you do on your part?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Expanding communications, is that it?

(Newsman): Communications, transportation.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): It does not depend on us alone. In great part it depends on the United States becuase if the United States does not permit travel to our country everything is obstructed.

If in addition the terrorists tell U.S. companies that they cannot operate to Cuba because they will be blown up, that also has to be considered. But we know something. Sometime back there was a delegation of Florida citrus fruit growers visiting us here and an aircraft came to pick them up. Aboard that aircraft there was a pilot, a copilot and their wives. When they were near Havana the aircraft probably blew up because they were maintaining communications with our control tower. All of a sudden there was silence. The aircraft disappeared. There was a group of terrorists who took credit for the act of terrorism. We sent some information to the U.S. Government on suspicions we had about certain persons of that terrorist group. As far as I know the United States has done absolutely nothing to investigate that case which, in our judgement, was a case of sabotaging an aircraft while in flight that took the lives of four U.S. citizens. It was a very odd case. It was very close to Cuba when it blew up.

You can well imagine that with those problems and obstacles, between the terrorists and the U.S. Government's anachronisms and absurdities, it is not possible to establish communications. It is not our fault.

(Marta Solis): Commander, given that the tourist industry in Cuba is still small for that large group of Cubans that will come, have you set a limit to the number who may come per year?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Well, we have not set a limit but if the time comes when there is not enough room, then there is not enough room. [laughter] What can we do? We cannot make the island bigger. No, in addition it will depend on the number of airlines and aircraft. I believe this is a progressive movement, because if it becomes necessary to build hotels, then we will build hotels. As you have seen, we have built many secondary level schools, hundreds of them, and preuniversity schools. If we get in the mood to build hotels, I am sure we will mass build them.

(Marta Solis): Will they be able to come to visit the homes of their relatives?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Well, the matter of how tourist travels will be handled has to be arranged now and see how they can be accommodated in the homes of relatives. I have explained the manner in which we were going to begin developing this movement. At the beginning it will be individuals or tourist groups. Later on we could gradually organize all of that in the future, by facilitating all possible means of travel, including the relatives' homes. Those who come in groups would contact their relatives and visit them.

(Newsman): Commander: Please, can you say something for us in English to...[question not completed]

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, in Spanish): I can say that I do not speak English, but I can speak of my good wishes and my sincere sympathy toward the people of the United States.

(Newsman): Commander: I was going to ask if you have considered the possibility of creating a secretariat, an office, an institute or something like that?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Well, one of the points most repeated by numerous participants in the meeting was the idea to facilitate everything--transaction for visas, solutions of these problems, creation of some agency to take care of the Cuban community abroad. And we offered to them to seriously study this problem to create the proper mechanisms to speed up and take care of all these activities.

(Alfredo Munoz): [Word indistinct] a sort of Cuban community ministry?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): No, No. A ministry would be too much because it can be an institute or something like that. Moreover, there are Cubans in many places. They are not only in Florida, although it is said that Miami is Cuba's second largest city based on the number of Cubans.

(Marta Solis): Two questions: What was it that most impressed you during these 2 days of dialog with these Cubans, this new meeting with Cubans from abroad? And now they are practically expressing the wish that Cubans abroad who so wish can participate in the mass organizations in Cuba, in the people's government, in the Pioneers and in a number of other things?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Two things. I was truly very much impressed with the intellectual level of the persons who gathered here. The level is really very high. I have said that more than 70 percent are university professors, professionals. There were men of industry, workers' representatives, representatives of persons who had been in prison, [representatives] of everything. [The representation] was quite broad but of a very high intellectual level. Secondly, the meeting was very serious, respectful, serious, in-depth, in, let us say, an atmosphere very much respected by both sides and with an absolute degree of liberty. Millions of things were raised because actually it must be kept in mind that there are several young men in that group and they raised concerns of the sort you have pointed out which are totally new for us and which we really have considered.

(Newman): Commander, do you hope that by your humanitarian gestures the U.S. Government will respond possibly by lifting the embargo and [establishing] relations with Cuba?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): I think it was Maceo who said: "I do not expect favors from such a powerful neighbor," I do not expect anything from the United States, absolutely nothing. I believe the U.S. Government is incapable of making gestures.

(Newsman): Commander, what do you consider to be most basic, the minimum, the necessary thing for there to be a serious dialog now between the two governments?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): It is essential that the economic blockade cease because the economic blockade is a dagger aimed at the heart of Cuba and there can be no truly fruitful negotiation between the two countries under such conditions. It depends on the U.S. Government, which is maintaining its blockade. It cries out like a person possessed when the Arabs imposed an oil blockade on us just because we are a small country. Where is the logic, where is the moral standard of the U.S. Government? Well, moderator, are you not going to defend me? [laughter] We have been at it almost an hour.

(Newsman): Forty minutes.

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): But if I speak too much you are going to get tired and you will get bored and I too, all of us are going to get bored. Well then, we have to meet again to see what decisions we are going to make. We will meet again with the community representatives. If the United States resolves its part, then we will all meet again to formalize this agreement. It if does not resolve it, we will to see what measures we will adopt, but we are willing to go on and to seek solutions. [applause]

(Alredo Munoz): [Word indistinct] Commander, if I may be allowed, I should like to introduce a subject that is painful and has no relation to the subject matter of Cuba-United States dialog, but we have received very painful news on the health of President Boumediene?

(Commander in Chief Fidel Castro): Yes, we have read it in the news reports and we also are quite concerned and moved by the news since anything which might happen to Boumediene and the serious problem of Boumediene's health would be an enormous loss to the nonalined countries and for the Third World countries and for the world's progressive countries.

We hope he can recover his health although the reports are truly distressing. (Radio Reloj announcer: All the participants in the dialog sang the national anthem and shouted "Viva Cuba.")

EXILE REPRESENTATIVES ESTABLISH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FL231207Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The representatives of the Cuban community abroad who conducted talks with Cuban authorities this week have established a coordinating committee composed of 18 members and 4 working committees. The committee was established in a meeting held yesterday, during which Rev Jose Reyes, pastor of the Baptist Church in Palm Springs, was elected chairman. The working committees established by the participants will be responsible for governmental affairs, press and publicity, mobilization and finances. The nine members of the committee for governmental affairs today will travel to Washington to meet with President Jimmy Carter or the official that the U.S. head of state designates.

In a press conference Rev Jose Reyes stated that one of the first agreements reached by the committee was to send a message to Carter asking him to give careful and urgent consideration to the pronouncements made by Fidel on the release of prisoners. He added that he is a personal friend of Jimmy Carter and expects success in the effort. He noted that Carter should demonstrate good wishes with respect to the human rights program by lifting the U.S. blockade against Cuba. The reverend stated that this is the opportunity for the United States to live a moment of leadership such as the one being lived by Cuba. He said that the Cuban Government's attitude is profoundly humane and demonstrates that human rights are respected in Cuba.

END TO U.S. ECONOMIC BLOCKADE DEMANDED

FL231339Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Nov 78 FL

[Text] More than 250 representatives of North American social sectors have demanded an end to the economic blockade against Cuba during a meeting of solidarity with Cuba, which was held in Miami Beach, Florida. One of the participants, Victor (Martelis), who was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival, noted Cuba's advances aimed at overcoming the situation in which it was left by Batista's regime. He added that our people zealously work for peace and international security and for the strengthening of detente.

DIOCESE ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR DIALOG WITH EXILES

FL241119Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban diocese (episcopado) has announced its pastoral support for the dialog being conducted in this capital between the highest governmental leaders and representatives of the Cuban community abroad. Our pastoral support for this dialog, the diocese declaration states, is being made as a result of the offer by Council of State President Fidel Castro, whose first phase had already begun when it was agreed to by our conationals residing outside of the country for diverse reasons.

The document adds: We wish to publicly confirm the steps being gradually taken by the appropriate authorities which are directed toward channels of reintegration of our society's life for the sake of not a few former inmates. Recalling that there still are citizens in prison, the Cuban diocese said that it pastorally adheres to the offer made by Fidel Castro which guarantees freedom to the majority of those who are admitted by other countries, beginning with the United States.

MEXICAN NEWSPAPERS DETAIL U.S. INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

FL231631Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1524 GMT 23 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Mexican dailies have announced that during the past 10 years the U.S. Government has conducted an intensive covert surveillance in Mexico's universities, student groups and leftwing political organizations. The dailies EXCELSIOR and UNO MAS UNO published a partial reproduction of FBI documents which the U.S. Justice Department was forced to release in Washington under the Freedom of Information Act. According to the documents, the North American government issued orders to conduct espionage operations in coordination with its embassy in Mexico City. Those surveillance operations included universities and intermediate level educational centers as well as the Communist Party of that fraternal country.

OBJECTIVES OF NONALINED COUNTRIES REITERATED

FL221511Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1352 GMT 22 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Cuba has reiterated that one of the fundamental objectives of the nonalined countries movement's policy is to eliminate the use of force and pressure in international relations. The Cuban delegate to the UN commission on juridical affairs, Rolando Salup, referring to the topic of nonuse of force in international relations, pointed out the need for cooperating in the preparation of a treaty on this subject to strengthen peace and international security.

Referring to the threat of the use of force, he said that Cuba, since the revolutionary triumph, has resisted and overcome all types of aggression conducted by North American imperialism. In closing, the Cuban delegate once more reiterated Cuba's support for those countries struggling for peace in an effort to consolidate the process of international detente.

DELEGATION TO ARAB CONFERENCE DEPARTS FOR SYRIA

FL231516Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 23 Nov 78 FL

[Text] A Cuban delegation headed by PCC Central Committee member Omar Iser Mojena has departed for Damascus, Syria, where it will attend the Arab conference beginning on 27 November. Representatives of political parties and mass organizations of Arab countries will participate in the Arab people's conference, which held its first meeting to condemn Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last year.

ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL CONFERENCE OPENS

FL210205Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The fifth session of the Czechoslovak-Cuban committee on economic, scientific and technical cooperation has begun in Prague with participation of representatives of the two countries. The Cuban side is headed by Joel Domenech Benitez, member of the Council of State and vice president of our country's Council of Ministers. The Czechoslovak side is headed by Jindrich Zahradink, deputy premier of the federal government.

COLOMBIA

BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA BEING CONSIDERED

PA221843Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian Government revealed today that it is studying the possibility of breaking diplomatic relations with the Anastasio Somoza regime. Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas warned however that a decision of this nature cannot be made hastily since it would have a negative impact on many Nicaraguans who have requested political asylum in the Colombian Embassy.

GOVERNMENT DENIES EXISTENCE OF U.S. BASE IN LA GUAJIRA

PA231205Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government emphatically denied today the existence of a U.S. military base in La Guajira and said that this would never be accepted, nor has it been discussed between Colombian and U.S. governments. The emphatic denial was made today by Government Minister German Zea Hernandez, who said among other things that there are no separatist movements in La Guajira which could endanger national integrity. After a meeting with President Turbay the minister spoke on the matter and other topics discussed during a meeting of the national decentralization committee, which met today under his direction.

GUYANA

FORESTRY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH EEC 13 NOV

FL211635Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Nov 78 p 9 FL

[Text] The upper Demerara River forestry project will provide for a modern township with 1,500 employees and their families. On Monday, at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Cde Hubert Jack and Mr Tue Rohrsted, European Economic Community delegate in Guyana, signed an agreement concerning the final stage of the project design.

The project provides for a sawmill in the Great Falls area between the Essequibo and the Demerara rivers, about 70 miles south of Linden. There will be the installation of a six-megawatt power plant based on electrical power generation from waste wood gasification, establishment of a township for 1,500 people (employees and their families) in the same area; establishment of port facilities near charters on the west bank of the Demerara River north of Wismar and an access road to the port site of a length of about 10 miles. The project costs include initial management assistance to the fully government-owned Demerara Woods Limited, which will operate the sawmill.

The project is being financed by the European Economic Community through the European Development Bank.

Two Guyanese engineering firms, C.A. Liburd Associates and Terrence Fletcher Associates, hold sub-contracts with a West German consultancy firm, Agrar-und-Hudrotechnik, which is in charge of the project.

The project will, according to the implementation schedule, be in production from 1981, and is earmarked towards increasing the production capacity of the forest industry by 70 per cent. In addition to the EEC, three other donor agencies have been approached to co-finance the project. They are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Bank and the European Development Bank, an agency of the EEC.